

nultiplication of this class of schools can only serve to impair those which should be really maintained. Possibly much could be done in this direction, if more of these higher schools were under the control of our regularly constituted school boards, who would see to a proper system of gradation, and to that which is not less important, the payment to the teachers of a regular and sufficient salary. While speaking in this connection, ladies and gentlemen, I may perhaps be permitted to express the hope that the day is not far distant when our universities, liberally endowed through the benefactions of their own students who have attained distinction in different spheres of life and from other friends of education, will find themselves in a position to decline to receive further aid from the State. When this occurs a very considerable impetus can be given, so far as increased grants are concerned, to our academies and model schools, which, in their true light, should be regarded as the nurseries of the universities. I may also remark that the time will come when further improvements in the mode of distribution of the superior education money will have to be made. I have always felt the very great inconvenience which results from what is now a necessity, that is that a uniformity is not maintained and that a school this year receiving aid to an extent sufficient to place it upon a footing of usefulness is the following year, through no fault of its own—neither of the teachers nor of the directing body—deprived of a very considerable sum, upon which possibly its existence depends. Again at the present time the population, I mean the relative Protestant population of counties, are not considered in the distribution. I do not believe that any good results flow from rapid and sudden changes often made without proper deliberation and upon an imperfect basis; but I do sincerely hope that the time may come when we can have

A SYSTEM OF COUNTY SCHOOLS,

those of the one vieing with those of the other. This, of course, would entail a county system of school inspection and a county high school with model schools in each township—the model school being the stepping stone from the elementary school to the county high school, and the latter, in its turn, the stepping stone to the universities. This plan, whenever realised, will necessarily throw additional burthens upon the ratepayer, and I know that this is not always popular; but I have sufficient confidence in my fellow-citizens to believe that, if they can be convinced that great and satisfactory results are likely to accrue from any improvement in our educational system, they will be quite prepared to endorse it, and to assume their share of the burthen which such an improved system will necessarily carry with it. Reverting now, ladies and gentlemen, to our elementary schools, I can only repeat what I said on this important subject ten years ago, when I had the honour to first preside over this Association, namely, that I very much fear that sufficient interest is not taken in this much needed and eminently useful class of schools, considering the circumstances of our situation—that