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Editorial

TEACHERS' SALARIES

This Journal has not a word to say on behalf of teachers who are lazy or incompetent, but it certainly has something to urge on behalf of those who after long and careful preparation for their work are giving honest, faithful service. The treatment such teachers have received since the beginning of the war has been nothing short of scandalous. We are speaking now of teachers-in-general and not of the few who have had a measure of fair dealing.

When the war broke out the prices of raw production doubled and more than doubled. The price of manufactured goods increased in like proportion. Wages of workmen in many cases kept pace with the increased cost of living. The salaries of teachers increased from 5 to 10 per cent. It is only during the last year that any considerable increase has been made. The result is that the profession is losing or has lost many of its most capable members. Men are almost eliminated. Those who remain are objects of pity. They cannot dress decently, cannot maintain their social standing, cannot even maintain their self-respect. Of most of them it might be said:

"Chill penury repressed their noble
rage

And froze the genial current of the
soul."

If hardship were common very little would be said, but hardship in this province is not common. Any one who witnessed the Christmas shopping in this city, any one who patronized the fashionable stores or even the smaller

stores knows well that most people have money to spend in abundance. In rural districts conditions are even better. It is only the people who live on salaries who are hard up, and they are being compelled to bear most of the burden of the war. That is no rank overstatement and there is a ready explanation of the fact.

When a manufacturer had to meet the increased cost of raw materials and labor he did not feel very badly. He increased the price of his goods. If a grocer had to pay more to the wholesaler he added on the extra cost plus a few cents to the retail price. It is difficult to say who have been most exorbitant—the producers, the wholesale dealers or the retailers. The man on salary has had no chance to add anything to his income. He has had to take what he was given or get out.

True enough, some employers have given their clerks a bonus. This is a confession that the regular salaries were insufficient or a proof that profits during the year were more than reasonable. The sworn testimony of managers of many concerns—trading companies, loan companies, commission houses, milling companies, retail merchants, shows that profits have not only been unreasonable but scandalous. What is known as business success is nothing but bare-faced robbery. It is no wonder that a bonus has been possible in many cases. Anybody can pay a bonus with other people's money.

But no bonus has come the teachers' way. Nor do they want it. All they