

greatest indifference by the great bulk of the people, including men of the highest standing in society, and of superior intellect, have never yet been seen by thousands of men and women of intellect and culture. The very name appears to be sufficient to cause the aristocracy (?) to look down upon them with contempt.

For the office of School Trustees there are usually candidates offered; to procure working Directors for Mechanics' Institutes, men have often to be sought and solicited. It appears that about every office to which the law attaches some authority, as to that of Trustees, there is a certain charm; while that of a Director, having no such law support, is less attractive. The school laws, the rules and regulations from the Department, are now so extremely restrictive regarding the selection of teachers, the programme of studies, and various other matters, that the office of a Trustee is almost reduced to a mere machine or figure-head, who has no opportunity of developing individuality, or applying superior education, energy, talent or thought. On the other hand, a Director of a Mechanics' Institute—fortunately not yet restricted by law and departmental rules and regulations—has ample scope in the discharge of his various important duties to develop individuality, and to apply fully all his tact, knowledge, superior education, energy, skill and ability. Where, it may therefore be asked, is the analogy between Public Schools and Public School Trustees on the one hand, and Mechanics' Institutes and Directors thereof on the other, that would warrant the application of the same departmental rules and regulations to the latter as to the former?

Can it be reasonably expected that an Institute founded upon a voluntary system, depending for its maintenance and usefulness, for the promotion of its chief object, upon the energy, skill, ability, tact and intellect of its Directors chosen from and among its own members—will continue to secure in its service a class of energetic, talented, skilful, able and intelligent local managers; will prosper better; will with greater certainty attain its chief object—when a single central power in the Province monopolizes all the intellectual work, that very work which gives real stimulus to local managers, and without which many influential, intelligent, wealthy and independent men could not be induced to take the office of Director of a Mechanics' Institute; and when, in order to make the degradation more keenly felt and seen, that deprivation of intellectual work is substituted by a code of rules and regulations which are impracticable in the extreme, and which on the face thereof bear evidence that those same men whom the Report admits to have been chosen from the most respectable and influential representatives of our people, and who are gentlemen of influence and wealth, possessing enterprize, education and intelligence, are nevertheless not to be entrusted with the management of their own joint local affairs, in which the Government of the