

Improvement of Education in Rural Schools

BY PROFESSOR JAMES W. ROBERTSON.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I desire to thank you for the honour of an invitation to address the convention of the Dominion Educational Association. In expressing my thanks, I must beg your indulgence while I speak of something which may be attempted towards the improvement of rural schools in Canada. The eloquence and fervor of those who have addressed the convention to-night and at previous sessions have been such as to nourish national sentiment or the sentiment which finds its expression in patriotic displays in connection with national movements. National life of a worthy sort for us rests on the labours of teachers; and whatever helps to make them effective, strengthens the national life. Any national greatness, which we may have or attain to, must come from an intelligent, God-fearing and capable population. To ensure these qualities in our people, it will be admitted by every one, that in the rural schools we need the best education.

THE DOMINION EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

I take it that this organization, like all other organizations, comes from the life and activity of the individual members who compose it; and that as an organization, it is meant for real use, that is to bring something to pass, besides the passing of resolutions. At a convention of teachers, one may look for a frank and unhesitating intellectual hospitality. More even than other people with open minds, those engaged in educational work should have no prejudice against information, or suggestions, even if these should come from