

through life, but they will be removed from an atmosphere of idleness and crime. The discussion of the subject may perhaps bring out some queer vagaries about liberty and interference with parental authority. But it is a wholesome thing to legally interfere with the ignorance and selfishness of parents who do not know enough or do not care enough to do what is best with their own children, and at any rate society will not suffer from such interference. It would be only for a limited period—a period, however, whose neglect can scarcely be atoned for. It would be compelling the appropriation of a benefit in a case where class prejudice or sectional blindness would not be likely to offer much opposition. It seems certain, moreover, from the character of current discussion and the urgency of the need, that public opinion will not recede from the position which it is taking on this question. That position is just and tenable; and we hope that ere long the Ontario Government will give its earnest attention to a demand which has arisen and will persist until a remedial measure is granted.”

Finally, Dr. Hinsdale, of Michigan University, said in April last, “While the State should leave many to this voluntary treatment, all experience shows that the education of the mass of the children is not one of them.”

CONCLUSIONS.

In view of the successful working of compulsory education laws in so many parts of the world; in view of the absence of any such law in this province, resulting in many cases in deplorable neglect on the part of parents and guardians to take advantage of the education offered them; in view of the inalienable right of the state to protect itself from the consequences of ignorance and its attendant crime, and in view of that bond which makes every man his brother's keeper, your sub-committee feels called upon to recommend to this convention immediate and energetic action for the purpose of securing at an early date an adequate and wisely arranged compulsory education law.

Lastly, as to the feasibility of the thing in this province, your sub-committee is not too sanguine.

It is thought that opposition to the passage of such an act would be made from various quarters, but nothing is to be gained by delay. All great reforms have met with opposition at the outset, but though opposition may be anticipated your sub-committee is sanguine of a support equally strong.

The hon. the Premier of the Province, who has so enthusiastically supported every scheme for the educational advancement