

There would seem to be some improvement required with respect to the payment of the salaries of Teachers from proprietors. An agreement (generally imperative in law) is drawn up, but, is the amount paid? Teachers often lose much time in endeavouring to collect the small sums due from each proprietor, months after it becomes due, and some is lost altogether: yet the Inspector is obliged to certify the amount as *paid*, to enable the Teacher to draw the Provincial allowance. Is this what the School Act contemplated? that "unless the inhabitants of the School Districts shall have subscribed *and paid* at the same rate as the Provincial allowance," no Teacher shall be entitled to be paid such Provincial allowance? Or viewing the matter in another light, and supposing—what I hope does not in any case happen, and I merely instance it here to shew the absolute necessity, as I think, of having the money actually *paid* before any money is drawn from the Treasury, in order that it may not be improperly drawn,—suppose, I say, it to be secretly understood that all the money subscribed should not be exacted by the Teacher (where the latter is not boarded) how is the Inspector or any one but the parties to know this?

Let the payments be made quarterly or semi-annually, and some voucher produced to the Inspector to satisfy him of the fact. There should be, I conceive, some persons appointed to see that Teachers actually receive their salary; for if, as is alleged, their salary is small, so much the greater necessity that it should be promptly and regularly paid. And if persons were so appointed, give them also—they possessing the necessary qualifications—the power to employ Teachers. Why have a first class male Teacher placed where a third class would do equally well, when only a small number of pupils attend? the Teacher receiving the highest Provincial allowance, because competent to teach branches which he is not, in such a place, called upon to teach (the people not being far enough advanced), and the public, therefore, not receiving the full benefit of such Teacher, and yet he could be placed where they could do so. Again, why have a third class Teacher where many of the pupils are further advanced than such Teachers—because a Teacher of a higher class has been his or her predecessor (the third class Teacher, perhaps, accepting less salary)? And yet, under the present system, this must continue: and besides, Teachers must search after Schools, and—from meeting with petty annoyances incidental to the search—often become dispirited, and resolve to leave the service at the first favourable opening, for some other employment.

The people have at present the hiring of Teachers; yet, in many cases, they can have no previous knowledge of the person whom they employ; and although they may intend the best, the Teacher sometimes proves to be rather an indifferent one, and then, perhaps, they incline to believe others rather than themselves. Thus they possess a power which is not always a benefit to themselves.

I have endeavoured to induce parents and others to visit their District Schools occasionally, and have informed them that I should be glad of any assistance or suggestion, and this especially as Trustees—although discharging the duties assigned them by the School Act—seem to consider themselves relieved from visiting the Schools.

All should, within reasonable limits, assist, if any considerable advance is expected to be made in the School system; and, as I have stated to them, it might even be a benefit to the cause and an encouragement to the Teacher, and would shew him that  
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