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Ottawa, October 29, 1914.

William L. Rensay, Esq.,
Bladworth, Sask.

Dear Mr. Rensay:

I have read with much interest your article on "Taking Thought" published in the proceedings of the 6th annual Convention of the Saskatchewan Educational Association.

As I gather your meaning, your intention is to emphasize the importance of discipline as a factor in the moulding of youth for a proper manhood, also the desirability of fitting individuals for work with others in whatever field of service chance or opportunity may direct their steps. Both, I think, are essentially sound ideas. The fact that the truth underlying them is borne in upon you out on the prairies so strongly, and that they come to me working in the thick of social and industrial interests, with no less force, is pretty good evidence that they are so essentially sound as to be fundamental.

The problem with you is to secure this discipline and opportunity of association where circumstances make it difficult to obtain male teachers, and the bringing together of any large number of pupils in one centre. The proposal to secure the necessary male teachers by the state assisting any men who appear to be attracted by the ideas of discipline and service through the opportunities presented by a cadet corps, is, I think, a very good one. It seems to me you have gone much beneath the surface in making the suggestions you have, and that the public authorities might well adopt it to the advantage of your province and the country.

I am hardly familiar enough with rural educational problems and the methods of meeting them to express an opinion with regard to the residential school proposal which you have also made, but certainly it has features which strongly commend it. One would have to consider pretty carefully any residential scheme requiring the boarding of pupils away from home for a period of time might be regarded in newly settled parts in view of the desire of settlers to utilize a little each day of the services of their children, but these are matters of which farmers and educationalists would be the best judges.

Allow me to suggest that you send a copy of your article to Professor J. F. Robertson, Chairman of the Commission on Industrial Training and Technical Education, the appointment of which I had the privilege of recommending to the Government. Dr. Robertson has given

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