

house. It is uncertain whether any time would have been granted for this purpose, had not the Principal of the McGill Normal School exerted his influence in bringing it before the Executive Committee.

This however is not my main purpose in writing this letter. The country teachers have a grievance, and a serious one. Ever since the meetings of the Convention became permanently located in Montreal, the country teachers have gradually lost the influence they possessed formerly, when the meetings were of a migratory character. This can be readily seen in the result of the election of officers for the ensuing year. The retiring President, the President elect, two of the three Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer, the Recording Secretary, the Corresponding Secretary, the Representative to the Protestant Committee of Public Instruction, and one of the Pension Commissioners, are all engaged in school work in the City of Montreal. It is perhaps preferable that the Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary should reside in Montreal, but surely there are men to be found—and women too—in the ranks of the country teachers who could acceptably discharge the onerous duties of one or more of the remaining posts of honor.

When I add that the retiring President, the President elect, one of the Vice-Presidents, the Recording Secretary, the Corresponding Secretary, one of the Pension Commissioners, and the Representative to the Protestant Committee are all connected with the High School, Montreal, it does seem as though the Convention were either trying to honor one institution to an extreme extent, or were anxious to pay all the compliments they could to its much esteemed head. If the Montreal teachers wish to make the Provincial Association of Quebec Protestant Teachers a local affair, by all means let them do so, but let me respectfully suggest to them the propriety of changing its name. The trouble is that everything connected with the Association is run on the "Ring" principle. The Executive Committee must always have a "Montreal" majority so long as the Annual Conventions are held there. Of course the country teachers have the privilege of combining to carry any particular point, as the City teachers do, but they never have a chance of coming together excepting at the time of the October meeting, and there is therefore no chance of united action on their part. I know for a fact that many of them are disgusted with the whole business. At several meetings I have heard the expression—"This is the last Convention I shall attend in Montreal, but the following year sees them in their accustomed places, and they do nothing to remedy the existing state of things.

Personally I enjoy these annual gatherings very much. Independently of the pleasure of meeting old friends, I always manage to pick up some new ideas which are of use in my profession, and am old enough to feel more amusement than chagrin when I see office after office thrust on to one or two men whom we all delight to