

*4. More Recognition in the Management of Educational Affairs.*

And lastly, if the Public School teacher and the High School teacher are to hold their rightful place in the educational and the social economy of the Province, they must have more to say in the management of educational affairs. I trust I am not rushing in where officials should fear to tread, when I state that I am one of those—and there are many of us—who believe that our present system of administration is a source of both weakness and strength—in what proportion, I am not here prepared to say. But I am prepared to say that some of its weaknesses would disappear if fuller recognition were granted to those directly connected with the Public and the High Schools. This year, by submitting to you the proposed changes in the Regulations, and, more especially, by proposing to recognize you through some of your officers in the important matter of selecting text-books, the Minister of Education has taken a long stride in the direction of a much needed reform. It remains with you to justify your claims to a fuller recognition.

Last year when addressing the College and High School Department, I took the liberty of pointing out that the Ontario Educational Association does not yet possess the influence it should have in matters of educational policy. Sectional disputes, involving, it may be, conflicting class interests, have sometimes blinded you to the importance of larger issues. This session you will discuss more than one question of a controversial character. Permit me to suggest that, however you may finally dispose of a difficulty which all admit, you now take prompt measures to deal broadmindedly with the questions the Minister has submitted for your consideration. Your present session will probably be the most important in the history of the Association; and, although I belong to the official class, you will pardon me, I hope, for assuring you that I still sympathize with you in your aims and wish you God-speed in your deliberations.