

that there is a strong tendency to employ teachers who will accept the lowest possible salary, with the usual result that the teaching is not worth much more than what is paid for it. And with a poor school in the section many of the children attend the schools of neighboring sections where better teachers are employed.

I understand that in the township of Clark, there is one section where the pupils of school age are so few that the people have made arrangements to have all the children carried to the school in an adjoining section and maintain no school of their own.

See schedule as to amount of Government grant and county grant to some schools.

The power given by the School Act to township Councils to have a Township School Board was doubtless given in the hope that the difficulties above mentioned might be obviated, but the desire for Home Rule in Canada is so strong that only in a very few cases has advantage been taken of this provision.

Some townships have made grants of double the amount required by the statute, and are quite ready for the proposed amendment.

This scheme for aiding every school out of township funds with a fixed grant has this in its favor :—

1. It is fair and equitable, since the education of all of the children in a township is a benefit to the whole township, and all the rateable property in the township is made to bear to a certain extent an equal proportion of the cost of education.

2. The receipt of a fixed sum from a township renders it possible for a small school section to employ a teacher who is competent for the work without overburdening the people of a poor section.

3. The children within one section are taught there and the better schools are not over crowded.

4. The tendency to employ poor teachers with poor results is to some extent corrected.

There has been comparatively little complaint as to the scheme from which we may infer that the plan within certain limits is a beneficial one. The Deputy Minister of Education informs me that the scheme has met with much approval.

This statutory provision under consideration has not perhaps been in force long enough to afford sufficient data from which to form an opinion definitely as to its advantages and disadvantages.

If it is found by experience to have produced some of the results which are hoped for, the grant might be doubled with beneficial results to all concerned.