

ucation and sing lustily with him the new song :

We raise our flag on high
To celebrate the day,—
To consecrate a nation's cry
For God and country aye!

Can nothing be done to appease the cry that comes from our teachers in every part of the Dominion? At the late convention of teachers held in Toronto the inflictions of the Department of Education came in for their usual share of attention. But however hard are the tasks prepared for the teachers by those in supreme authority there seems to be some measure of relief which the teachers themselves could inaugurate to alleviate the woes of their fellow teachers in the remote country districts. The two great evils under which the teachers labor in the distant sections of the various provinces are the small remuneration and the uncertainty in their tenure of office, and these have certainly been written of frequently enough, and yet no remedy has so far come to light. The moving from place to place annually still continues and the tariff of wages remains the same. In the United States an effort is being made to bring about an arrangement whereby a three years' engagement after one year's trial shall take the place of the present "happy-go-lucky" methods practised by hundreds of school boards. The movement is only at its initiation, and yet there is in it a lesson which our Canadian Teachers' Associations may learn with profit if they would alleviate the evils that beset them and their neighbors. Why should the permanency of successful teachers not be as well assured in the country as in the city? What hereditary cruelty lurks in the hearts of so many school commissioners and trustees that they should perpetuate the humiliating custom of

an annual dismissal all round among the teachers in the employ of the Board they constitute? What was the origin of the barbarous practice? and whence comes it that teachers have so long put up with the inhumanity? Is there no *esprit de corps* among them to agitate for the disallowance of the cruel custom? Several instances of the inhuman treatment which some teachers are being subjected to have lately come to our notice. A young lady working for the munificent salary of twenty dollars a month, whose success as a teacher was well assured, lately received her notice of dismissal while she was yet in the act of teaching her pupils in the class-room. She had known for some time that she had fallen into disfavor with the Secretary of the Board, and that a year before that gentleman had been so mean-spirited as to carry about a petition against her among the parents. But conscious of her own integrity, and re-assured by the ill-success of the canvass among the parents, she had not thought of leaving the community until the fatal document of dismissal lay in her hands. Could any form of cruel humiliation go further than this? And what had been the plea by which the Secretary had accomplished his revenge? Had he urged her incompetency? He could not very well do that. The success of the school and its large attendance bore a different testimony. What he had done was to convince the generous minded Board that a *cheaper teacher* could readily be engaged, and that the saving of the taxes would be a popular movement, outweighing the popularity of the poor teacher who, by her industry and winning manners, had made herself popular with everybody in the village.

But cases even more cruel than the above could be cited. A gentleman had settled as teacher in a village where the school had for years continued in a wretched condition. The