

age attendance of at least thirty pupils maintaining a standard of efficiency in secular subjects and (b) using the Public School text-books and (c) employing as teachers only those holding Public School certificates, to be entitled, on the written application of at least twenty heads of families resident in the school district, to have such Voluntary School placed on the list of Public Schools subject to the same inspection, and to share in such educational fund according to the average attendance, as in the case of other Public Schools.

#### INSTRUCTION IN SPECIAL SUBJECTS.

5. In Voluntary Schools special classical, scientific, commercial, mechanical, religious, or other instruction may be imparted to the pupils. Provided, however, that it in no way interferes with the efficiency of the work of imparting the elementary instruction required by the State curriculum.

Let me explain by example the working out of such Voluntary School system. Let us assume that we have a locality with one Public School building with ten class-rooms, accommodating 500 children; and that this building is accessible to all who require to make use of such school. This school may be sufficient for a time to accommodate all the children of that locality; but as the population increases a greater demand will be made on the school than it can meet. The trustees are then forced to the expedient of procuring a new site or renting rooms elsewhere. Let us assume that over and above the cost of providing accommodation it costs on an average \$10 per annum to instruct each child attending the Public School. In the above example this would amount to \$5,000. Now, in order to meet a demand for increased accommodation, should the trustees decide to erect a new school building, they must first expend

a large amount on the site and the erection of buildings, and then continue to expend at the same rate \$10 per annum for each child. Let us assume that increased accommodation is required for 200 children. Let us also assume, for instance, that there are two religious bodies in the community having suitable buildings under their control, each capable of accommodating 100 children; together they would meet the total demand for increased accommodation. All the children would be provided for, and the municipality saved the expense of procuring a site and erecting buildings.

Let us consider one of these Voluntary Schools in working order fulfilling all requirements as to elementary secular instruction. This Voluntary School would be entitled to an annual grant of \$1,000, no more than the cost of imparting the same secular instruction to the same number of children in the Public School. To maintain all the work desired in such Voluntary School it may be necessary to raise additional funds by voluntary subscriptions, or fees from those in sympathy with such school, or availing themselves of its privileges.

Now, what reasons are there for hoping that Voluntary Schools will receive such support? First, the fact that one can obtain in them for his or her children religious instruction. Secondly, the desire in educating children to obtain something more than we have a right to obtain in Public Schools at public expense. If these reasons do not exist in any one section of the community no demand will there be made for the introduction of Voluntary Schools and the Public Schools will accomplish the work as at present.

Let us assume that the municipal grant of \$1,000 is supplemented by a voluntary grant of a like amount. We would then have \$2,000 to expend on the education of 100 children instead of only \$1,000. In this way parents