

prepared to place you (free of charge to yourselves or the teachers) in communication with those requiring situations.

"In order to do this more rapidly and intelligently the following gentlemen have been appointed to receive and answer communications in their respective districts:— J. F. Middlemiss, Wolseley, Assa.; A. M. Fenwick, M.A., Moose Jaw, Assa.; D. S. MacKenzie, B.A., Strathcona, Alta.; C. H. Clarkson, Macleod, Alta.; C. Nevins, B.A., Prince Albert, Sask.

"Thanking you in anticipation of your valuable assistance in this matter, we remain

Yours truly,

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE,

N.W. Teachers' Association.'

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The "sweating system" adopted by school trustees in the eastern provinces and to some extent in Manitoba should receive the attention of the provincial Departments of Education. Some innocent teacher who lives in the district and can board at home at no expense (!) is on that account wheedled into taking the school at a lower salary than the previous teacher. The trustees have repeated this device and similar ones until the wages of ordinary teachers are lower than those of ordinary laborers, and of skilled teachers than those of skilled mechanics. The resulting injury to public education is becoming a matter of general comment. A recent issue of the Toronto Sun contained a very sensible article on the question of low salaries, though most of us strongly object to the writer's estimate of the value of women's work in elementary schools such as were referred to. The article in question reads as follows:—

"The Daily Globe of January 3rd contained several advertisements for teachers which throw some light on public education. One of these advertisements offers an assistant mastership in a high school to a suitable person willing to teach mathematics and sciences for \$600 a year. The position is one for which university graduates qualify after perhaps seven years of study. Another calls for a female teacher, who, besides her duties a teacher will be required to light fires and sweep the school for a salary of \$216 a year. Another calls for a male, married, Protestant, experienced second class professional, of suitable age, weight and height to teach for \$300 a year. Another offers \$400 a year to a second class professional, and one offers a position as teacher in a rural school in the long settled county of Grenville, at a salary of \$200 a year. These advertisements probably indicate fairly the remuneration of teachers in the rural and village schools. The highest salary, that offered to university men, does not exceed the wages of a skilled mechanic, while the lowest does not equal the wages of a farm laborer. Though living be cheap in the country, it is obvious that these salaries are not large enough to invite or keep capable teachers. Most ambitious persons, doubtless, make haste to find more profitable callings, and the teaching profession is an endless progression of the raw boys and girls still in their teens, with the girls in the majority. Of scholarship there is perhaps enough. The departmental examinations are supposed to guarantee that. But what is there of character? What will be the character of a people trained in school by teachers with no higher qualification than a knowledge of square root and grammatical analysis? We doubt very much the wisdom of filling the schools with women teachers. At all events, there are few who can teach well until their characters have formed in the crucible of experience and reflection. Nor can any community overestimate the general usefulness of an experienced teacher who is in the language of advertising trustees a male. He becomes a centre of social activity, organizes meetings, settles disputes and fixes moral standards with more authority