

position in a common school simply as a stepping-stone to other vocations. In establishing Voluntary Public Schools the teacher may have a direct financial interest in the success of the school, giving encouragement either in doing better work with smaller classes, or in imparting some special instruction which will entitle them to increased remuneration. The voluntary fees contributed by the parents would supplement the ordinary grant from the Public School rates, the amount of such voluntary fees adjusting itself to the demand and supply of each school, and probably varying according to the requirements and wealth of the supporters in different localities.

Taking the school system as we find it, it will be seen in the first place that the Board of Trustees elected by popular vote can but represent at best a general average. This Board of Trustees will naturally expend only an average amount which will satisfy the popular demands of the section. They will employ only average teachers and pay only average salaries. This condition of affairs, I take it, must be considered ideal with the present system. In practical operation I fancy our common schools, in many places, fall far below what ought to be the average requirements of the community. On the other hand, by the affiliation of Voluntary Schools the work of the School Board must at least be maintained to its present efficiency, while opportunity is given to supplement this with all that makes up a liberal education. I need not here enter into details regarding the management of such Voluntary Public Schools. No doubt the parents establishing Voluntary Public Schools would have a controlling voice in the management; subject to the conditions laid down by the Educational Department, and satisfying the requirements of the Public School Board of the same municipality, and submitting to the same inspection. By the affiliation of Voluntary Public Schools with the Public Schools of the Province, we at once harmonize the interests of the State, the parent, and the teacher all in one National system—all combining in an effort to produce the best and most liberal educational advantages possible for all classes of the community under one Public School system.