

inert members of society, and live and die without making even a ripple on the stream upon which they are borne to another life. If we desire our children to have active and energetic intellects, we must in the formative period of life put them in close contact with active minds, like will produce like, mind stimulates mind, mental power in the teacher will produce mental power in the pupil. It is the mentally active teacher that excites youthful emulation, perhaps creates it, and this stirs the youthful powers for high and noble activity. In this view of education, the office of the teacher is one of the most important of all human avocations, even that of the statesman, dealing as he must, with the material interests of great nations, and making laws for the government of millions, is inferior in results, to that of the man who is moulding and stimulating the youthful mind, drawing out its abilities, and refining those powers, on which the Creator has left the imprint of His own wisdom.

The amendments of the law as made in the two last Sessions of the Legislature, are meeting with general approval, especially that which removes the exemption from a tax on property to a certain amount, owned by men over sixty years of age. This exemption was doing much harm to our schools, as it led to serious abuses of the provisions for property tax, and now, in not a few Sections, its removal is making a considerable increase in the Section rate. In consequence of the change, several Sections are able to have a school the entire year, instead of six months as formerly, and others can afford to supply a teacher of a higher grade, Mr. Morse of Annapolis remarks on this as follows:

"The amendments which have been made in the law during the last two sessions of the Legislature, are proving, and will continue to prove beneficial to the interests of education, especially in the outlying districts of the county. I would again suggest the propriety of making other amendments to the law, such as have been mentioned in former reports."

The fundamental principle underlying our whole scheme for free education is, that the property tax, with the grant from the provincial treasury, must sustain our public schools. It is true, Sections levy a poll tax on men having no rateable property, but the tax is by no means productive of much aid, and very often the levying and collecting is attended with more trouble and expense than the tax is worth.

The exemption of men of a certain age was therefore incompatible with the first principle of our school law, and as above stated, its removal is giving general satisfaction.

In several of the eastern counties a strong desire is manifested for changing the time of the summer vacation. Mr. McDonald, of Pictou, writes:

"This County, especially the country sections, are very dissatisfied with the time fixed for the summer vacation. As reported formerly, the whole month of July is the best in the term for children to attend school. And Trustees are tempted to keep their schools open during the whole month; and that for two valid reasons, first, a much larger number of children can get the benefit of the school, as many can attend for two weeks longer than, that can not at-