

scheme, as the only purpose it can serve is to make second class certificates of no more monetary value than third class certificates now are, besides it is an unjust tampering with individual rights. If third class certificates as they now stand are to be recognized at all, then those holding them have a right to accept of positions where they can get them, provided they know themselves to be competent to do the required work.

Our educational authorities seem to have yet to learn that the only way to successfully, permanently and generally increase the salaries of teachers is by increasing the general wealth and prosperity of the country; that every advance in the latter will bring a corresponding one in the former, and that any attempt to overrule this indissoluble connection must end in a final failure.

It is for reasons like these that I believe our present school system to be in advance of the other developments of our country—a system for the next century. It is true that there are some portions of our Province in which it may work passably well, but in these it would succeed even better if it were less trammelled by petty legislation and an interminable list of regulations and if it gave more freedom of thought and action to local workers. But to the greater portion of the country it is not well adapted. It requires too high a standard of literary education for its lower teachers, a requisition which means a great amount of

time, work, and expense, and then has the means of offering only too low a remuneration for the labour expended. There is not the least doubt that many of our young men, sooner or later, discover that their salaries and prospects as teachers are not a sufficient return for the many weary hours which they have dragged out in mental labour, in order to prepare themselves for the examinations, and that accordingly they turn their backs upon teaching, and find better remunerations and a brighter future in other professions. As for our young women they always have peculiar tastes, and if they leave a large public school for a small private one it cannot be wondered at.

Finally, I believe that with the experience which we now possess, our school system might be vastly improved by certain amount of remodelling. ~~But as I have already taxed your attention for a sufficiently long time I cannot hope, now to lay before you any elaboration of the changes which I would consider profitable. Should opportunity occur I may do so at some future time.~~ Thanking you for your kind attention, I wish every success in the working of this Association, and I look hopefully forward to the time when these Associations may be an educational power for good in our land, and may become useful in modifying those narrow and rigid regulations which are too apt to be originated at headquarters.