

Eastern Guardian

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*DUNDAS.—Rev. A. MacKay of Dundas Presbyterian Church next Sabbath evening 29th inst at 7 p. m.

Teacher's Suggestion

Sir:—In a recent issue of the "Patriot," among other articles I noticed in the doings of the city council, the reception of a request from the city teachers requesting a raise in salary. This we know is a deserving one and will doubtless be granted to that meritorious group of workers as only a just grant.

But what about the poor rural teacher? Last August twelve month the city teachers got a raise of fifteen per cent on their salary and later on in that year an additional grant of one hundred dollars from the city council, if I mistake not, and the poor rural teacher has received perhaps from ten to fifty dollars increase, with just as an advanced scale of expenses to meet. Today a rural teacher in the average district receives from three hundred to three hundred and fifty dollars, more or less, per annum.

Do you think that this is justice? Little wonder over seventy schools were vacant at the beginning of the school term last August, and then to fill those third class teachers or those failing in the Christmas Exams, at Prince of Wales College were allowed to take over those schools, leaving somewhere over thirty schools without teachers, about four hundred and fifty pupils without an opportunity to attend school! Think Legislators!

Think you who are sent to look after and promote the welfare of the people of our fair little island! Are you doing your duty? Humming and Haing from year to year until you have brought on this drastic condition in our educational system.

What enticement for a young man to make this his profession and when we think what a noble profession. Next to the preacher moulding the character and minds of small impressionable children for forty hours a week.

How many male teachers have we with us? Pitifully few. They are needed though. Principalships in several graded schools, sometimes of four rooms, are held by young, inexperienced girl teachers. Is this justice to big boys from twelve to sixteen years old who need a firmer hand, and manly example? I think so, and you should, too; and the only way to supply this is to make the remuneration large enough to tempt young men to make this their profession, for at least a reasonable number of years.

Our good teachers are hourly leaving us or dropping out of the profession. What is to become of the next generation of P. E. Island? Very intelligent, will they lean point an accusing finger in one direction—to our Government, whether Liberal or Conservative.

With all the luxury which can allow so many to indulge in motor cars, can not enough money be raised to meet the needs of our children's education? True, the Education Tax was voted down, but who voted it down? Selfish people without any interest in school affairs, who have benefited from or will benefit (if they can get a teacher) from their school, and who in their youth have not themselves taken enough advantage of their education to broaden their brains a little in order to let them see the broader things of life.

The people recognize the teaching profession as an underpaid one. Gratefully, we recognize that the present government has agreed to do something to alleviate matters. But now the teachers are drawing up this scale were demanding it as a supplement from the people, and keeping in view that slow and steady wins the race, made very moderate demands, indeed, in fact deficient ones.

Take the case of the rural teacher with an average attendance of fifteen. He or she would receive only about four hundred dollars under the new scale. Now let any one economist, feed, clothe, and pay running expenses out of this meagre salary and see on which side of the fence they will come out on.

Continued on Page Eight
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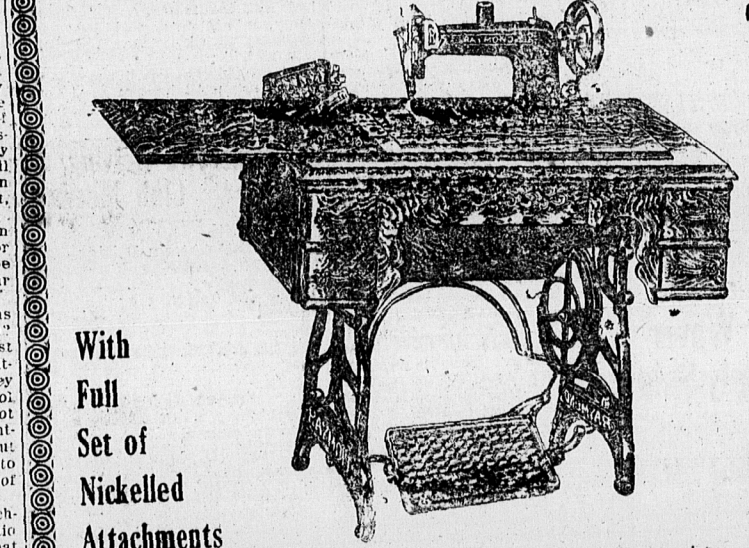
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