

HON PAYSON SMITH TELLS OF THE OBLIGATIONS OF A COMMUNITY TO ITS YOUTH AT TEACHERS' CONVENTION

The Following Address Was Given—The High Standard of Education Required For This Age—Medical Inspection Strongly Urged For Public Schools—An Instance Given of Apparent Stupidity on the Part of the Child Traced to Poor Sight—Better Paid Teachers That They May Avail Themselves of Wider Sources of Information And Thus Raise the Standard of Education—Up-to-date Methods in the Schools, etc.

At one of the sessions of the Annual Convention of the Teachers' Association of Prince Edward Island, held in Charlottetown recently, Hon. Payson Smith, Superintendent of Public Schools in Augusta, Maine, delivered an address on "The Obligations of a Community to its Youth."

So I am going to talk about it, and I think it is perfectly proper, under the circumstances, that we should help bear each other's troubles; that we should talk about this matter, and not be reticent about it.

that hundreds of children in our city and in our state and other parts of the country, are going out from comfortable, well-kept homes, surrounded with beautiful lawns, into school houses that are furnished with no idea whatever as to the comfort and health of the children; where no attention is paid to decoration or beautification; where the playgrounds are nothing more than bits of unkept pasture land.

will have been justified in spending this money" After he had finished speaking, a man came to him, and said, "Do you mean what you said? Do you mean to say the State of Massachusetts would be justified in spending all this money to erect the building, to save only one boy—to take only one boy out of the path of sin and turn him toward righteousness and into a useful citizen?"

of those schools; that they must be conducted under the trained supervision of men who know their business, and who know how to direct and carry out the work of education. We realize that we must have a vast, larger amount of hand work in our schools. We realize that for too many years we have been sending to school just the heads of children, and we have got to begin now to send their whole bodies, and educate them not only through the head, but through the hand and through the eye as well.

this Province, and who have taken positions in other parts of your country, and in my country as well. We realize we owe a great debt to the Maritime Provinces for the splendid citizenship that has come to us, particularly in New England. I want to bring this thought home to you tonight—for it needs to be brought home to us.

pretty much the same—and I can give you one of them now. The teacher would ask Mr. So and So to "say something to the boys and girls," and he would say something like this: "Boys and girls, I have had a splendid time this afternoon. I have enjoyed your exercises more than I can tell. I have liked to hear you sing; I have enjoyed your recitations; I have been delighted with your beautiful recitations, and I have had a splendid time listening to these things. I always like to visit your school, and I always like to talk to the boys and girls, because,"—and he would always say this—"because I realize that there may be seated in one of these little seats some little boy who will grow up, and who knows but that he may be President of the United States?"

I do not think he ever held that out to the girls. I think, however, he did tell them that if they would be very nice little girls they might be first lady of the land. And I think that if we had the same person make a speech today, with the present tendencies, he would probably tell the girls that they might look forward to being President of the United States.