

sory education. In that the government made a step in the right direction.¹ If pupils cannot pay half for school books, the government should see that they are provided free. I believe that it would be a good move to have a university here. Also, it is essential to have regional schools provided in the larger outports. I regret to have heard the figures given out yesterday, namely, that there were 325 ungraded teachers and 1,788 graded. This is surely the outcome of the low salaries paid in the past; and I hope now that salaries have been increased somewhat teachers will come forward to get their necessary grades. Adult education has been also mentioned and I am pleased to see the progress made. I would like to refer to political education; it is very necessary in Newfoundland. We must aim at true democracy and that means that we must be responsible for our own affairs. But it devolves upon the government to see that the people are educated politically so far as is possible.

Mr. Vincent As I see it, the Education Committee has done a good job.... I believe their figures are essentially accurate and I am quite willing to discount the Chadwick-Jones paragraph on education in favour of theirs. They have presented a fair picture of a very important subject.... There are ever-expanding fields of improvement in education, for everyone will agree that the first requisite of a nation is the education of its children. The present estimates of slightly over \$3 million for education is not at all adequate for the needs of such a sparsely populated country as ours, and, could our economy afford it, it might be double that amount. What of the future of the teaching profession? Are we agreed that the remuneration they receive is sufficient, and befits their high calling? Says the report, and I quote, "The median salary including augmentation and cost of living bonus is for 1945, \$992." The average teacher actually receives today the modest sum of a little in excess of \$82 per month for 12 months (it must not be mistakenly supposed that a teacher doesn't eat and spend some money in the holidays, which of course are without pay). Mr. Hollett spoke wisely when he affirmed that teachers' salaries are ridiculously low. I know of schools in this island with but one teacher, trying desperately to cope with the almost insurmountable problem of having to teach

all grades from Kindergarten to Junior Matriculation for the fabulous sum of \$45 per month plus a small augmentation. Mr. Newell stressed yesterday that the cause of the high percentage of ungraded teachers was mainly due to the great shortage in the profession. The real cause for this regrettable situation is obvious — can we expect our teachers to continue in the calling for such a ridiculously low scale of wages? Take up your daily paper tomorrow and you will read in the want ads — domestic servants wanted, \$35 per month (that means plus board). Is it any wonder then that school-teachers seek other zones of employment?

Mr. Jackman One of the most important matters, if not the most important, we have to deal with is education because it deals with human value. The boys and girls of today are the men and women of tomorrow. They constitute our greatest national asset. Our teachers are equally important. What are we doing to see that those teachers, whom we depend so much upon, are getting enough pay to live on in order to educate the children of the country? I would say that we are doing very little over this injustice. I know we, as a Convention, cannot do much because we have not got the authority but I think this Convention should at least try and call the attention of the people to this very important matter. The conditions under which so many of our teachers have to exist is scandalous. As Mr. Vincent has said, "Is it any wonder we have a shortage of teachers?" And he struck the nail on the head when he said it was because of small pay. I can give several examples of that. I know a chap at Bell Island who taught school for a number of years. He was single at the time and managed to get along, but eventually he got married and was compelled to leave the teaching profession and go down in the mines shovelling ore in order to feed, clothe and educate his family....

A balanced budget at the expense of human deprivation and suffering is not a balanced budget at all. If the government was to balance their budget at the expense of the teaching profession, I don't want a balanced budget....

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the committee of the whole place itself on record as being greatly dissatisfied with the present pay scale paid our teachers, particularly those in the lower

¹The Commission of Government instituted free and compulsory education in 1942.