

income group, as inadequate in view of the high cost of living, and that we feel that an immediate revision upward in the present basic salaries should be made, and we ask the Education Committee to include this in their report.

**Mr. Hillier** I have read the Education Report through and it contains some very important information. I think the report gives us an idea of what the expense of education will be in the future, also that it would be necessary to have a larger amount.

In speaking of education we have to go sometimes beyond our immediate vicinity, to look abroad upon this country, and we will find there are many small communities containing small schools, and the boys and girls can never hope to rise beyond a moderate standard of education, because of the early age at which they are advised to leave school. To the few is extended the opportunity to obtain an education. We are specially privileged in St. John's. In looking abroad again upon the outports there is a very large number of boys and girls whose parents have not the ways and means to send them to St. John's or elsewhere to get an education. But in some of these communities there is a lot of hidden talent. So in the large centers we must never lose sight of the many who have not our advantages....

**Mr. Burry** Much has been said about the need to raise teachers' salaries and give them a better opportunity to get a better education and training with which I agree heartily, and would like for the Education Department of the government to do all it can to interest the teachers in Newfoundland. They will not be wasting money. Any money spent will be well spent in the interest of education, but we ought not to overlook the fact that the Commission of Government has made great strides to increase the earning power of our teachers, and while in the lower brackets it is rather low, and perhaps not too high in the higher brackets, the fact is that the average teacher today is getting much more than he or she used to get. When we make any suggestion or recommendation to increase the salaries of teachers we ought to avoid using too harsh phrases such as "ridiculously low salaries"; because they are not so ridiculously low today.... I want every member of the Convention to understand me properly. I

am not trying to discourage any effort to increase the salaries of teachers, but looking over this table I find that it refers to 1944, and there are only two teachers getting less than \$300 a year, and 196 teachers getting less than \$500 or \$600 a year. We all know that does not refer to the total amount that is paid to these teachers, because the cost of living bonus is not included, and the augmentation is not included. I am given to understand that there is no graded teacher employed with an augmented salary of less than \$660 for the school year. I don't know if the Committee will bear that out or not in their findings, but if that is so perhaps such words as "ridiculously low salaries" may not be used without bearing this in mind.

Any increase in salaries that can be given in the future ought to be given, but we ought to bear in mind that the salaries at the present time are not so very low compared with the past, and with what young people in St. John's and the outports earn in other callings. Perhaps that is not a fair comparison, but I am trying to avoid giving the public or the possible teachers the idea that they are not going to be paid at all no matter what grade they may get. We want to do all we can to get the young people to come into the teaching profession....

**Mr. Starkes** The report by the Education Committee, is to my mind, not very encouraging to say the least....

Let us look at the figures brought by our Education Committee. For the year 1921-22 when our expenditure was around \$10 million we spent roughly \$817,177, 8% of our total expenditure<sup>1</sup>; in other words \$24.35 per student. This was spent 25 years ago, and after 25 years of progress and advancement in education, this year 1946-47, with an estimated expenditure of over \$34 million, the Commission of Government estimates spending around \$3½ million only, or 10%....

**Mr. Newell** Mr. Chairman, before we go any further in this discussion of teachers' salaries, there are one or two things that I have to point out. One is that the figures given on page 7, contrary to the opinion expressed by the delegate from Labrador, do include the cost of living bonus.... These are the average salaries up to

<sup>1</sup>In the original, Mr. Starkes gave the inaccurate figure of 12%, and based the rest of his speech on the assumption that the percentage of expenditure devoted to education had declined.