

teachers' salaries, the only thing I can say is this: is the government paying scab wages for one of the most important professions in the country? After all, teachers start off when they first leave home to go to school; and schoolteachers should be considered among the most important professional people we have. I beg to make a motion that this Convention go on record and recommend to the Commission of Government that they raise the basic wages for teachers, even if we have to bring the higher-ups down. Mr. Smallwood has mentioned that it is possible when we get plenty of goods on the market again, prices will come down. Even if that does happen, still the teachers are not getting a decent living wage, and by asking for an increase on the basic rate, that will give them a little further increase when the buying power of the dollar increases. I beg that the Education Committee recommend to the Commission of Government an increase in the basic rate of pay for the teachers.

Mr. Chairman You are making this as an additional recommendation of the report?

Mr. Jackman Yes.

Mr. Chairman The motion is, "That the committee of the whole make a recommendation to the Education Committee to recommend to the Commission of Government that the basic wages of a teacher be raised." Does anybody wish to speak to that motion?

Mr. Reddy I wish to support Mr. Jackman. I also agree that teachers' salaries are very low and I think we should make a recommendation for further increase in their salaries.

Mr. Higgins Whilst I agree with Mr. Jackman, I am afraid the matter does not come into our terms. Maybe Professor Wheare would give us an idea of his views on that.

Mr. Northcott We should give credit where credit is due, and the Commission of Government deserves credit for the increase in grants.... They have been generous in building many schools throughout the island, and it has made the teachers much happier. The new schools are better equipped and we have been able to get better results and we have been waiting for this for a long time.

Mr. Jones As a member of the Education Committee, and having taught well over 30 years in the schools of this country, I support the report now before the Convention for public discussion.

I know there are many people thinking and saying that \$3.5 million is a lot of money to be spending on education in this country, and are wondering if we are getting adequate returns for such a large sum. I think every cent of this money is well spent. Up to ten or 15 years ago many of our outport schools were scarcely fit to herd cattle in, and in such buildings we compelled our children to spend five or six hours a day. These schools, if you can call them such, were poorly lighted, poorly ventilated, poorly furnished, and inadequately staffed. No wonder the Department of Public Health and Welfare in its investigations found such a large percentage of our school children's eyesight defective, brought about chiefly by eye strain. Many of these schools contained long benches, in which five or six children sat with no support to their backs, and with chests cupped in in order to reach the desk which was either too high or too low, and in this posture they generally sat through the period. Is it any wonder that we have such a high percentage of TB in this country? I am sure we all agree and are pleased to know that the Department of Education is taking steps to remedy this evil as quickly as possible with the grants at its disposal. I said that the schools were understaffed. I will give you an example from my own experience. I once taught, or tried to teach, in a school with over 100 pupils enrolled with no assistance. I was not only supposed to teach the lower grades, but expected to prepare primary, preliminary, intermediate and associate grades as well. Is it any wonder, Mr. Chairman, that I am standing here today after going through such an ordeal for three years? I am glad to say that these conditions do not exist at the present time, thanks to increased educational grants. It has been said that all our government departments are overstaffed, be that as it may. In my experience with the Department of Education, I am sure this does not apply. Every person employed there is giving faithful service for the salary which he or she receives. In reference to teachers, it has been often said that they have a good job, only having to work for five hours a day. I say it is a noble job, trying to mould the minds and characters of boys and girls, in order to fit them to take their place in the community in which they live. It is a noble work, and teachers should be better paid for the work they are trying to perform. But if a person thinks a