Daisy Herses'  

September 29th, 1916
Equal Rights Requested.

If the recommendations of the Royal Commission are embodied in the Bill, it is understood that denominational schools would be treated in an equal footing with the State, and would be given an equal share in all existing scholarships and other extensions of denominational representation on the elementary school system, and also that denominational schools proportionately represented in the Civil Service would be treated on the same basis as primary schools, and that denominational schools proportionately represented in the Civil Service would be given the same privileges as accorded to primary schools.

(d) That teachers training for the education of the underprivileged be provided for them at the Teachers' Training Institute, and that this be expressed in the Education Bill.

(e) That private schools claiming preference for physical culture instruction, general school requirements, medical examination, and inspection by the State, be treated on the same principles as those accredited as State schools.

(f) That efficient schools be officially recognized, and that leaving and other certificates of equal value to those of the State schools be supported on the same standard. With regard to entrance to Government service, we prefer that the system of selection should be continued; but if this system be discontinued, we claim that all certificates issued by efficient schools be recognized as of equal value to those of State schools in admission to State service, Federal civil service, and teaching service. That in the event of efficient schools being able to private schools the examinee be chosen from competent persons unconnected with the department.

(g) We object emphatically to the recommendation that the Director of Education prescribe examinations for students desiring to enter State secondary or technical schools. To make John Stuart Mills a candidate for a university, and to make it necessary for him to pass an examination organised by the Executive Council, the Governor of the State has approved, and it will be held on January 1, 1915, viz.: A scholarship a candidate for a scholarship to every candidate who makes not less than 50 per cent. in the Secondary Public Examination, and the scholarship will be available at any State High School, Teacher Training Institute, or other secondary school approved by the Governor. The scholarship will be extended for two years if the holder secures an average of 60 per cent. in the Public Examination, and for a further (fifth) year if the holder secures an average of 60 per cent. in the Second Public Examination.

We further claim that in all examinations for scholarships the papers shall be set and the examinations shall be conducted independently of the Education Department in cases in which the public schools are not trained under the Education Department.

We also object to the Education Department's control over the apparatus for examinations and to the conflicting rules for different schools.
The Premier thanked the federation for having forwarded to him a typed letter which was pleased to receive the deputation, he said, as it was to receive any body of electors who could express their opinions of importance and concern to the Premier or discuss to lay before Government.

The Premier then moved to the discussion which would already been given to Parliament, that it was not the intention of the Government to proceed with any Bill in the session, at all events, with the proposed Education Bill. The causes of that were evident. The Government had not operated to prevent progress not only with the Education Bill, but also with the Civil Service Bill, Police Superannuation Bill, and the Bill for the appointment of a Commission to consider the measures had had to be put in the on category of legislation, which involved a great deal of research and care and that the time at the present time would not be available. He hoped that if the Bill had been started in the next session, his Government would have done well to have gone on with the Bill, and that he had the Acts, but the Ministry did not think wise to spend the time of Parliament upon measures which could not put in effect.

Commission's Recommendations Modified.

No doubt they had studied closely the reports of the Commission and the statements of Archbishop O'Neil he gathered that they were not pleased with the Commission in settling the measure. Because, in respect to the proposed Bill the matter had been purely administrative and not necessary, after consultation with his colleagues and the leaders of the recommendations. He regretted they could not proceed with the Bill because of the difficulty of getting the Commission, in that the interests of the States were getting abroad, as well as, in advance, of the State whose eyes they had examined. He noticed in reading their report that references were made to the Bill that, as far as he had heard, was dead, as people had departed so far from him in these late days. He thought the authority came as a revive and refreshing breeze from the south.

Education Bill.

They must know that the State up till now had stood firm to three main principles: religious, compulsory, free schools, and secular. The secular had carried in the minds of the people the thought that the aid to religion. That principle had been attacked by two sides—one by those schools who had no feeling for religion, and by those who had no feeling for secular schools in which religion was taught. He did not think speaking for the Government, they had no desire to depart from any one of those three great principles. So soon as a deputation was asked for taking up the Education Bill again and the Government would be pleased to send them to thealla and other representations which the deputation had been good enough to put before him.

Depositions—Regarding our request respecting scholarships a good deputation was sent the Premier said the master of scholarships was before his. He had given a very careful consideration to the petitions, and he was not adverse, nor did he think his colleagues would be adverse, to throwing open the scholarship to public competition.
the private schools of the State, whether by the denomination represented that morning, by the Lutheran Church, or by the Church of England. They were each doing great auxiliary service to the State system, and when it came to awarding prizes they should all be considered.

In reply to Archdeacon O'Neill he promised to consider the matter of having the children at private schools examined by the State medical officers who visited the public schools.