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"TO PROMOTE THE MOVEMENT TOWARD EFFICIENT CITIZENSHIP"

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OPEN LETTER

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To the Members of
The Board of Education,

When some years ago the executive management of the public elementary and the secondary schools was unified under a Superintendent of Education, a great step in advance was taken in the interests of pupils, students, parents and taxpayers. One of the great sources of educational and financial waste inevitably is lack of co-ordination between elementary and secondary schools. A unified command under the Board is just as essential in education as is unified military command under the War Department or Board of Strategy. The interests of the public are served in both cases and the interests of the public are supreme.

It is now proposed to separate the office of Chief Inspector of Public Schools from that of Superintendent of Schools. The results of such action, if once taken, could not be other than increased difficulty in co-ordination, weakened budget control, increased costs and poorer service. What is needed are more co-ordination, more close budget control, decreased costs with more and better service. We are now on the way to these goals. Why turn back the hands of the clock? There is no absolute break in the life of a child at its completion of the elementary school course and entrance upon a secondary school course. The emergence of the Junior, High School or the Intermediate School is a recognition of this fact, and nothing should be done to make smoother co-ordination of elementary and secondary education more difficult.

One of the great dangers in proposing to separate public school inspection from the Office of Superintendent is the possibility that it may lead to or facilitate the division of the field of the Board of Education between a Public School and a Secondary School Board. This would mean three independent school systems under three boards, instead of the present two systems under two boards, and that public control of public affairs in the domain of Education would become even more difficult than it is. Toronto neither needs nor can afford more

boards, commissions and departments than it has now. The existing local set-up is already too diffuse and inco-ordinate.

Surely the people of Toronto will not allow sectarian and partisan consideration to interfere with the efficient and economic management of public affairs and will sternly rebuke anyone elected to protect the public interest who, in practice, supports action which can serve only personal and special interests. The tax burden is sufficiently oppressive now without incurring the certainty of additional and unnecessary exactions.

Yours very respectfully,

"T. G. Rogers"
President

"H. L. Brittain"
Managing Director