

PRIMARY EDUCATION.

I have thought it might be well to publish in a separate form the remarks I made to the Synod on the subject of Primary Education. In addressing the Synod I did not think it desirable to discuss the probable change in the method of administration. I confined myself to the question of religious teaching. But identified as I have been from the beginning with the past administration of our Provincial system of education, I do not think that it will be out of place for me to make some remarks on this subject in this publication. I believe that the Board of Education has been in the execution of its trust a faithful servant of the State, and impartial in its administration. It is my opinion, too, that the State has been exceptionally well served by the successive Superintendents of Education, and I think it is a subject of regret that the Province has lost the experience and administrative ability of the late Superintendent.

There is grave objection to the Department of Education being treated like an ordinary Department of the Government. Usually there is a Minister who decides everything in his Department, and an assistant, with perhaps half the salary, who acts as Deputy Minister. But in this Department the real administrator should be, if possible, a scholar of fair if not high University attainments, well acquainted with educational questions and methods. And as his value will be largely increased by experience and knowledge of the country gained by years of office, he should be a permanent official. Now it is impossible to secure and retain a valuable man of such attainments without a liberal salary. To expect always these qualifications, even to a very moderate degree, in the statesman receiving for political reasons the Ministry of Education is out of the question. And it would scarcely be right to make such a man the mere clerk of the politician for the time in office. Besides it will be difficult for the Minister in this country to be credited with the absolute determination of all the questions rising out of school matters without giving suspicion of political partiality and embittering those