

2. It will probably enable masters to give more time to purely English subjects.

3. It will moderate professional jealousies and abate, if not entirely remove, those unhappy evils that have arisen out of the intermediate.

4. It will permit in some degree a measure of play to the individuality of the teacher and pupil.

The defects of the scheme he thought were :—

1. It will destroy the uniformity of the system.

2. It will discourage the study of classics, mathematics, modern languages, and probably also history and geography.

3. By allowing many options to all pupils and the university and professional examinations requiring their full quota of subjects, it will prevent effective classification, and in the majority of schools will leave many of the pupils unemployed.

4. It will to a very large extent leave secondary education to the whims and fancies of ever-changing school boards, and the likes and dislikes of frequently changing masters.

5. It will by allowing so many options practically place secondary education in the hands of parents often not competent to decide upon such important matters, which in many instances will mean in the hands of the pupil himself.

6. It will prevent the awakening and recognition of exceptional talent in many subjects.

7. It will have a serious effect upon the volume and value of the University supply.

8. And lastly, but by no means wholly, it will unsettle the public mind as to the status of secondary education. He concluded by suggesting a slight modification of the old intermediate as preferable to that proposed, or a modification of the scheme developed by the Senate of Toronto University for the guidance of Upper Canada College. He was not in favour of the intermediate as a basis of classification in the high school, but if it was to be obligatory he would like to see it as little hurtful as possible. The reading of the paper was frequently interrupted by applause, and Mr. Robinson was asked to have it published.

Announcements.

EDUCATIONAL CHANGES.

The changes made in the educational system of this Province by the following regulations are neither few nor unimportant. They affect the programmes of high and public schools, the status and qualifications of teachers, the powers and duties of inspectors, the mode of distributing the high school grant, the list of text books, and the machinery for imparting to teachers a professional training. That modifications so extensive were not made without a good deal of investigation and deliberation goes without saying, and it is not easy to see in each case whether change and improvement are synonymous. That some of the changes are in the right direction is apparent at a glance, as for instance the placing of the Provincial normal and model schools under one official head. Heretofore there has not been uniformity in the methods pursued in these institutions; hereafter this desideratum will be secured under the able supervision of Dr. McLellan, who has been appointed to the newly created office of "Director" of the normal and model schools. Apparently the mode of distributing the high school grant, while it tends to increase the salaries of the masters, will leave a portion of the sum unexpended unless it is reduced by the Legislature. How would it do to utilize this unexpended portion to encourage the development of special lines of high school work in the more enterprising institutions? Payment by results having been abandoned as the general principle of distribution, and there being a want of provision for special courses in high schools generally, much good might be done in this way at a trifling cost to the country :—

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMME.

LOWER SCHOOL.

I. The subjects of study which are obligatory upon all High School Boards are as follows :—

1. English Grammar.
2. English Literature.
3. Composition.
4. Dictation.

5. History and Geography.

6. Arithmetic and Book-keeping.

7. Drawing.

8. Drill and Calisthenics.

II. The subjects of study which are optional with High School Boards are as follows :—

1. Algebra and Euclid.

2. Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, and Botany.

3. Latin and Greek.

4. French and German.

5. Music.

6. Physiology and Hygiene.

7. Principles of Agriculture.

8. Household arts—Sewing, Cooking, and Housekeeping.

III. While all High School Boards are required to afford secondary instruction in classes in the obligatory subjects above prescribed, each Board may arrange, according to the particular circumstances of its school, the order in which such subjects are taken up, the amount of work and time to be given, and the number of classes.

IV. High School Boards are not required to provide means of instruction in all of the optional subjects of study above authorized, but only in such as in the judgment of each Board the occasion or circumstances of their school render expedient.

INTERMEDIATE EXAMINATION.

V. The true object of this examination being to test the fitness of each pupil to proceed from the Lower to the Upper School, it shall be regulated so that any pupil of moderate capacity may, after the requisite period of study, pass in the most essential of secondary branches in the Lower School. The obligatory subjects of such examination are therefore limited to the following :—

1. English Grammar.

2. English Literature.

3. Composition.

4. Dictation.

5. Arithmetic.

6. Drawing, and

7. To one of the following subjects or groups of subjects at the option of each pupil, viz :—

(a) Algebra and Euclid.

(b) History and Geography.

(c) Any two of the following three :—

Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, Botany.

(d) Latin.

(e) Any two of the following three :—

French, German, Music.

VI. The Education Department will prescribe by Regulations the principles to govern in the preparation of questions, the reading and values of answers, the conditions of passing, and the time and mode of conducting the examinations.

UPPER SCHOOL.

VII. The subjects of study in the Upper School shall be those prescribed for the Non-Professional Examination for First-Class Public School Teachers' Certificates, and for Junior and Senior Matriculation in the Provincial University, in the case of pupil preparing for any such examination. In the case of other pupils, any parent or guardian, after consultation with the Head Master, and with his approval, is at liberty to select for his child or ward one or more of the following subjects, as may best suit the purposes of such pupil, viz :—

1. English Language and Literature.

2. History.

3. Arithmetic and Algebra.

4. Any of the following :

French,

German,

Latin,

Greek,

Geography,

Natural Philosophy,

Chemistry,

Botany,

Geology and Mineralogy.

VIII. Head Masters are at liberty to continue in the Upper School any subject of the Lower School which they may think fit.

IX. High School Boards are not bound to provide instruction in all the authorized subjects of study in the Upper School, but are entrusted with full discretion to afford instruction in such subjects only as they may consider necessary in the particular circumstances of their school.

X. The foregoing shall take effect at and from the end of the summer vacation.