

Examiners, whose members were selected by the Committee, which has for two years granted diplomas under the regulations and conditions prescribed by the Committee; a list of text-books and a course of study authorized by the Committee and in general use, the latter connecting the infant class of the elementary school with the graduating class of the University, and qualifying in its several grades for the ordinary business of life, for the several grades of teachers' diplomas, and for admission to the University; and all of these several works are carried on under regulations drawn up by the Protestant Committee.

This is a brief statement of the main features of our present educational status and of the steps by means of which it has been reached; and, although it is susceptible of improvement in many directions, when it is viewed in the light of the past there is certainly no cause for discouragement, but, on the contrary, there is every encouragement to increase our efforts for further improvements.

Now that our system of education is fairly organized, our efforts for improvement must be in the direction of increasing the efficiency of the different parts of our system.

It will be generally admitted, I think, that the two most important parts of the system are (1) the teaching staff, and (2) the course of study over which the pupils are to be taken for the purposes of intellectual development and the acquisition of knowledge. If these are satisfactory, the results will be satisfactory.

Of these two points, the least important and the most easily satisfied is the course of study. If the present course of study is not satisfactory, it should be made so without delay. The materials are at hand for framing a course of study that shall meet the educational requirements of our Province, and no expense is involved in framing such a course.

I do not propose here to examine in detail the present course of study, or the criticism which it has received. I desire to say, however, that it has already done much to improve our school work, and that, while it is subject to amendment from time to time, it is now a satisfactory guide for the teachers and pupils of our schools.

One or two remarks, however, upon the general principles upon what the course of study is based may not be out of place, and, first, as to our *Course for Elementary Schools*.

The fundamental parts are reading, spelling, writing, and arithmetic, together with Scripture and moral teaching. In