

The new draft course aims at this from first to last. No one will suggest that this or that subject should be taken up in a half hearted, superficial way at the expense of these essential subjects, a knowledge of which is of vital importance to our children. And, on the other hand, no one desires to take a single step which would discourage the profitable, earnest, study of a language which can fairly be said to be the world's greatest language as it certainly is the master key to many of the languages of modern Europe. Every one admits that there is no better instrument for developing mental power than a thorough study of Latin.

I believe that every part of the draft is deserving of careful consideration; that a large part of it can be safely adopted, and I ask you by means of a special committee or otherwise to give me the benefit of your careful counsel and advice.

Our teachers in training after the summer holidays will have the advantage of a full year's course at our Normal Schools, instead of a half year's as heretofore. We did not, I am fully convinced, move a day too soon in this direction. The lengthened term will insure greater thoroughness and better work generally. Full provision has been made in these schools and in the Normal College at Hamilton also, for normal teaching in Domestic Science and Manual Training, and the longer course will admit of satisfactory teaching in these studies.

TEXT BOOKS.

I hope the Association will approve of the changes I have made concerning the vexed question of the authorization of text books. The regulations recently adopted transfer to a great extent the responsibility from the Department to an Advisory Committee of the Educational Council.