

are aware that there are no legal grounds for such an assumption on the part of the teacher. But we are yet compelled to believe that many holding such certificates would feel that, though perhaps not *illegally* dealt with, yet they were at the least *harshly* dealt with, and a legal rendering of their case made to tell to their disadvantage.

To overcome the difficulty that would arise in this way, we propose that all except first class certificates should be recalled unconditionally. In regard to those holding first class certificates, we would propose that their case should be left in the hands of the County Boards of Examiners, to be dealt with at their discretion, under certain conditions. For instance : they might be required to produce certain evidences of their success as teachers, which, if satisfactory to the Board, would entitle them to a *special* certificate, valid during pleasure. This would enable the Board to compel those teachers to undergo examination who were apparently behind the times, whereas it would allow the faithful and successful teachers to continue on in the even tenor of their ways.

The advantages of this proposal are quite apparent. Those who are advanced in years, and who, by faithful services rendered, have certain claims upon the public, would have these claims respected. It is certainly no small burden, if not an imposition, upon a teacher at fifty or fifty-five years of age to revise his studies so as to undergo examination, and particularly if he undertakes to get up the new work required for second class certificates. If, however, he can urge his success as a teacher, as an offset to any deficiency in the

newer branches, he will feel that his professional status is respected, and his services, to a certain extent, appreciated. That such a course would be fair and right, we believe no one can doubt.

But it might be objected that such a course would not accomplish the object in view, viz : the cutting off of those who are faithless and negligent. We answer, that their fate would be entirely in the hands of the County Boards of Examiners. No certificate would be valid except those issued after the date of recall. And if it was felt, on consideration by the County Board, that any teacher was deficient in his attainments, they could require him to submit to examination. The granting of special certificates would only apply in such cases as the Board felt that no injury could be inflicted upon the profession or the public.

It might be objected again, that the design of raising the status of the profession to a uniform standard of attainments would be defeated by this scheme. We answer again, that the injury on this score would be very slight, if any at all. All below the first class would at least be cancelled. And in the case of those holding first class certificates, so far as the approval of the Board was concerned, or so far as the license to teach was concerned, it would be more an evidence of success in the profession than an evidence of educational standing. The number of old first class certificates that would be affected by this arrangement, according to Dr. Ryerson's last Report, would be 1512—a number sufficiently large to deserve some consideration at the hands of the Council of Public Instruction.