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## THE RECENT SCHOOL LEGISLATION.

The recent School Legislation marks an important epoch in the educational history of Ontario. The new legislation was embodied in Bill No. 3 (as amended in Committee), which was successfully carried through the House by the Honourable Attorney-General Mowat. No one could have bestowed more care and patient labour on the subject than the Premier, and he deserves the thanks of the country for the great assiduity and zeal, as well as the pains, which he took to perfect our School system.

We will now summarize the chief amendments which were made to the School Law in Bill No. 3, and which were afterwards embodied in the two consolidated Acts which received the Royal assent on the 24th instant—which, by a pleasant coincidence, was the 71st birthday of the Chief Superintendent of Education.

### 1. THE COUNCIL OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

Sections 1-23 provide for the reconstruction of the Council of Public Instruction. It consists now of the following members:—

- (1.) The Chief Superintendent of Education, *ex officio* (or, in his absence, the Deputy Superintendent);
- (2.) Eight members appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor;
- (3.) One member elected by the Council of University College, and one by each of the other Colleges possessing university powers.

(4.) One member elected by each of the three following classes, viz.:—

(a.) The legally qualified masters and teachers of High Schools and Collegiate Institutes;

(b.) The Inspectors of Public Schools; and

(c.) The legally qualified teachers of Public and Separate Schools.

(5.) No person is eligible to be elected under this Section, or to continue a member of said Council, who, at the time of such election, or during the period for which he is elected a member of said Council, is actually employed as an Inspector, a Master or Teacher, under the Public, Separate or High School Acts.

(6.) The persons elected at any such election are to hold office until the elections for the following year or years have taken place.

The machinery for the election of the new members is fully provided for. The Council can appoint committees, and resolve itself into a committee of the whole. A record of its proceedings is to be published in the *Journal of Education*.

### 2. HIGH SCHOOLS AND COLLEGIATE INSTITUTES.

*High School Masters.*—In regard to High Schools, the new law provides that after the 24th instant no persons can become qualified to act as Head Masters of High Schools and Collegiate Institutes, who do not, "in addition to the qualifications already required by law for Head Masterships, furnish to the Council of Public Instruction satisfactory evidence of their knowledge of the science and art of teaching, and of the management and discipline of schools. The section does not apply to persons already employed as Head Masters.

*Preparatory Classes.*—Hereafter it shall be competent for the Board of Trustees of any High School or Collegiate Institute:

(1.) To establish a preparatory school, class or classes for the preparation of pupils for admission to such High School or Collegiate Institute, on the following conditions:—

(a.) No master or teacher employed in the High School or Collegiate Institute shall teach in such preparatory school, class, or classes;

(b.) No part of the Legislative grant or of the County assessment for High School or Collegiate Institute purposes shall be