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THIRD CLASS CERTIFICATES.

-- A great loss accrues to the country by limiting the duration of Third Class Certificates to three years. It was thought by the Council of Public Instruction when this regulation was made that it would have the effect of *compelling* teachers to advance in their studies, so that at the expiration of their Third Class Certificate, they would apply for a Second. In some cases perhaps, this has been the result, but in many cases the real result has been to hand over our Public Schools, more than they ever were before, to the management of new and inexperienced teachers. Many when their Third Class Certificates expire, retire from the profession altogether, and others not any better qualified, and entirely devoid of experience, take their places, and thus without literary advantage do the same work from which others retire, whose experience was certainly worth something. Take two persons with the same grade of certificate, but give to one three years of experience, and it is quite clear that the teacher lost to the profession is the most valuable of the two. We are aware that this matter is surrounded with difficulties, and we would be the last to put in a single plea for anything like a low standard of qualification for teachers, but is it not the case that the present system does not practically keep the standard up? Let a Third Class teacher, as soon as his certificate expires in one county, pass over to another and he could teach all his lifetime without making any literary advancement. But let the law be so framed, that any teacher who has held a Third Class Certificate cannot obtain a renewal of the same unless he is able to obtain 75 per cent. of the aggregate marks assigned, and you offer him an inducement to keep up his studies, and you prevent him violating the spirit, though perhaps not the letter of the law. Besides you make the transition from a Third Class to a Second Class Certificate somewhat easier, and thus facilitate the operations of the law.