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## MONITORS AS ASSISTANT TEACHERS.

Under the new School Act it becomes the duty of Trustees, where the average attendance at any Public School is above fifty, to engage an assistant teacher. It is a matter of some difficulty to Inspectors, we presume, to enforce this clause, particularly in rural schools. The increased expenditure recently incurred by rate-payers, for the enlargement of school premises, as well as the rise of teachers' salaries, has excited a certain amount of feeling in many sections, which, though by no means to be feared, must be recognized. To oblige them to engage an assistant teacher, in addition to expenses already incurred, might excite such opposition to our Public school system as would prejudice its future usefulness.

Now, while readily admitting that fifty scholars fully engage the attention of any teacher, and that to require him to take charge of a greater number is a loss of time, and a waste of energy, yet we see difficulties in the way of inducing Trustees to comply with the law worthy of some consideration.

By the new system of examination it is quite evident that the great majority of our teachers will be for some time third class teachers. And if the Old County Board certificates are recalled, there is no doubt but many who hold first class certificates under the old system, will have to be content with a lower grade under the new. It follows, then, that to engage an assistant, it will be difficult to secure any gradation in the standing of teachers—it being more than likely that, in most cases, they will both be on the same footing, so far as education is concerned. A difficulty might arise in this way, which would be prejudicial to the school, as one teacher might not so readily acknowledge the superior authority of another, of no higher status than himself. Again, it is nothing but fair that salaries should be, to a certain extent, based upon qualification. If an assistant is engaged in a school, he will, in all probability, be expected to accept a lower salary than his Principal. Hence another source, possibly, of jealousy.