

School Legislation.

One of the most important Bills that engaged the attention of the Legislature of Ontario during the session that has just closed was the Bill introduced by the Hon. Mr. Crooks, "to amend the several acts respecting the Education Department, Public and High Schools, and the University of Toronto." The Bill has now been assented to; and, as was promised, we proceed to give texts of the parts that most materially affect the Public Schools. It will be seen on examination that the responsibility of providing and securing the most urgently needed reforms—universal professional training, and an improved method of granting improved third-class certificates—will devolve on the Education Department. We wait with considerable anxiety the regulations for the conduct and management of the County Model School.

In order to be clearly understood the Bill must be read in connection with chapters twenty-seven and twenty-eight of 37 Victoria, popularly known as the Consolidated High and Public School Acts respectively, to which constant reference is made in the various amendments.

To 27 Vic., c. 27, s. 27 (5), relating to the examination for admission into High Schools, is added:—

(1.) "And (Education Department shall) "declare the equivalents for the same" (entrance examination) "for Public School teachers and *vice versa*. Also to determine the equivalents to "High Schools and Collegiate Institutes, where "pupils successfully pass examination before "learned societies in Canada, or the British Dominions, such as any University, the Law Society, "the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and the "like. Also to arrange with such societies for "similar subjects in certain examinations."

(2.) "Also shall arrange with Trustees or Boards "of Public Schools, for constituting one or more "of the Public Schools to be the County Model "School for the preliminary training of Public "School Teachers, subject to the general regulations of the Department."

Instead of having the Normal School examination at the close only of a session, sub-section seventeen, s. 27 is amended,

(3.) "To require at any Normal School or Training Institution in the Province, examinations to "be held from time to time of the students thereof, "and to prescribe regulations for such examinations."

Provision will likely be made to allow teachers to attend the "Education Lectures" exclusively, that are delivered in the Normal Schools.

Instead of "teaching in the Public Schools of the elements, among other things of natural history, agricultural chemistry, mechanics, and agriculture," we have the following phraseology substituted:—

(4.) "Provide, by the training of teachers, the "programme of studies, and special regulations,

"for elementary teaching in the Public Schools, "and amongst other subjects of the rudiments of "agricultural chemistry, mechanics, and agriculture, but these subjects are to be optional."

In connection with the certificating of students of any Normal School or Training Institution in British Dominions, and examination of Public School Teachers, an amendment requires:—

(5.) "Such further conditions to be complied "with by candidates for Public Schools Teachers' "certificates, as will secure duly qualified teachers "in the several schools."

Sub-section twenty-three, c. 27, s. 27, is amended so as to extend the power of the Department upon the report of the Central Committee to grant second-class certificates. The amended sub-section is as follows:—

(6.) "To award (upon the report of the Central "Committee of examiners) first-class and second-class certificates respectively, of qualification to "Public School teachers, under such regulations "and programme as may be determined by said "Council, and upon the report of such committee, "to award also second-class certificates to candidates "for first-class certificates, who come up to the "standard for second-class certificates, but who "fail to come up to the required standard for "first-class certificates."

Provision is made in c. 27, s. 31 (24), for transmission of entrance examination papers to Public School Inspector only. The Minister of Education shall

(7.) "Transmit to the Public School Inspector, "or such other person as the Minister may appoint, "the examination papers prepared by the "Central Committee for the admission of pupils to "High Schools, and Collegiate Institute, or otherwise."

The certificates given by the Minister of Education as per c. 27, s. 31, (12) to persons trained in any British Normal School or Training institution are to be particularized as certificates of qualification "of the first or second-class" (8). The evidence of the ability and aptitude to teach is to be decided, not by "certificate," s. 31 (12a), but by "examination" (9).

The Minister of Education shall furnish such rules and instructions as he may judge advisable in regard to the proceedings of institutes, and the best means of promoting and elevating the profession of school teaching and increasing its usefulness. C. 27, s. 31 (16), and

(10) "Encourage Teachers' Associations." Committees of investigation appointed to inquire into any school matter are empowered

(11) "To administer oaths to witnesses, or require them to make solemn affirmation of the "truth of the matters they may be examined "upon."

Hitherto the Minister was authorized to add one hundred per cent. to sums expended in purchasing prize and library books only, when such articles were bought elsewhere than at the Department; but now he may make payment