

as before said, of a public acknowledgment of their ability to manage matters for themselves. The proposal leaves the County Councils and Provincial Parliament just as absolute as they now are in all financial matters, and merely deals with professional efficiency required to earn such payments. Further, the Government will be relieved by the college of all responsibility in the matter of teachers' examinations; the discussion on these assumes at times the magnitude of a political question, and might even overthrow a party, or at least greatly sap its strength and influence at any general election. Henceforward this could no more be a political question than the qualifications required from lawyers or doctors, or the course of study judged most suitable for them, can be at present, and the Government would thus be relieved from all the onus and responsibility it has to assume under the present system.

In order to make the proposed college a reality, it will obviously be necessary that compulsory registration of all teachers shall be the main feature of its existence. Those who compare its probable working with that of the English College of Preceptors, and point to the failure of the latter to carry out completely the objects for which it was founded, must remember that "vested interests" have there prevented, as yet, the passing of any Registration Act, and until that is done, no real status can be given to the scholastic profession. In regard to present outstanding certificates, the proposal to recognize at their full value all those

already issued by the department seems to us to most fully meet all requirements, and to give to the holders of them, as much as they at present hold or can in any way consider as their due, besides enabling the department to keep full faith with those at the time of the passing of the Act—should such ever be done—who are, nominally, its servants, in addition to giving them, what they do not now possess, power in regard to their own profession.

The difficulty of equal representation on the proposed council may easily be met by causing a certain number to be appointed by the Department of Education from among the High and Public School Inspectors, so that these may form a connecting link between the governmental and professional branches, and prevent any misunderstanding in respect to minor points of working. Of the remaining members, a fixed number might be apportioned to the Public and High School Teachers, thus securing a fair representation to both sections.

In this scheme there is thus offered the most ample security for all vested rights, and the promise of wider good both individually and professionally to all teachers. It is at present a reproach that they are only united with "a rope of sand." Let the teachers of Ontario show that they will submit to this reproach no longer, and we are sure that they will have the support of public opinion in their effort to obtain—what all must in a democratic age acknowledge to be their due right—self-government.

TOBACCO BLINDNESS.—Tobacco blindness, it is reported, is becoming a common affliction. At present there are several persons under treatment for it at one London hospital. It first takes the form of colour blindness, the sufferers who have smoked

themselves into this condition being quite unable to distinguish the colour of a piece of red cloth held up before them. Sometimes the victim loses his sight altogether. Although smoking is to a large extent the cause of the malady, drinking is also responsible.