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CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER:

FOR THE PUBLIC PRESS.—Remarks of the Chief Superintendent on the introductory operations of the new School Law—Recent examinations of Teachers—Explanations—Objections answered	113
LAWS AND REGULATIONS RELATING TO HIGH SCHOOLS IN ONTARIO	115
CIRCULAR TO THE BOARDS OF TRUSTEES OF HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.....	119
PROGRAMMES OF STUDY FOR THE HIGH SCHOOLS	121
REGULATIONS FOR HIGH SCHOOLS	124
I. MONTHLY REPORT ON METEOROLOGY FOR MAY	125
II. EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE	126
III. DEPARTMENTAL NOTICES	128
ADVERTISEMENTS	128

FOR THE PUBLIC PRESS.

REMARKS OF THE CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT ON THE INTRODUCTORY OPERATIONS OF THE NEW SCHOOL ACT—RECENT EXAMINATIONS OF TEACHERS—EXPLANATIONS—OBJECTIONS ANSWERED.

The new School Act is now brought into general operation. The programmes for the classification and examination of teachers have been devised, published, and acted upon; the regulations for the improved organization and discipline of both the Public and High Schools, in relation to all their officers and every part of their operations, have been compiled, adopted and published; the programmes of studies for both classes of schools and for the classifications of pupils, have been arranged, considered and prescribed. A special examination for candidates for County Inspectorships of Public Schools, with all the needful examination papers, has been granted, provided for and completed; the papers for examination of students of the Normal School, and granting First and Second Class Certificates to those entitled to them, have been prepared and examinations conducted under the direction of the same Committee, as have the papers for the examination of teachers throughout the Province been prepared by the same Committee; and all the instructions necessary for the information and guidance of County Councils, County Inspectors, County Boards of Examiners, Boards of Trustees of both High and Public Schools, and for teachers, have been drawn up and transmitted to the bodies or parties to whom they appertain. The first examinations of teachers throughout the Province have taken place under the new system, and the results have been reported. Even a number of High and

Public School Teachers and County Inspectors have met, and, during the labours of a four days' session, have delivered their conceptions on the new state of things, and retired.

2. At this epoch, and under these circumstances, it becomes my duty to make some remarks on what has transpired and been said in connexion with those preliminary proceedings for giving effect to the provisions of the new School Act; and, in doing so, I address myself to those Conductors of the Public Press who may please to insert the observations I have to offer.

3. It is known under what a storm of misconception, misrepresentation and hostility the new Act was passed, and became Law on the 15th of last February. The provisions of the Act are as practical as they are clear and explicit, and are comprehensive as they are brief, touching upon every part of our school system, and contemplating its complete re-organization. All the preliminaries of that re-organization have been gone through with; and the principal bodies empowered to act under the new law have performed their first duties. In changes so great, and in a work so complex and comprehensive, it might naturally be expected that serious obstacles and much opposition would be encountered; but not one of the more than forty County Councils, in exercising their first functions under the new law, has expressed the slightest dissatisfaction with any of its provisions; not one of the County Boards of Examiners has expressed other than strong approval of the new system of examinations as a vast improvement upon the old system; nor have I heard from a single Board of School Trustees, whether of High Schools or Public Schools, in town or country, other than a feeling of satisfaction with the additional facilities with which the new law provides them for the discharge of their duties; and I believe all parties agree that it contains the mainspring of an immense elevation in the position and usefulness of the teacher's profession. Even in a recent annual associations of teachers, the most restless and faultfinding of the number present could not otherwise than express satisfaction with the general provisions of the new Act, and protested against one clause only, the most benevolent clause of the whole Act—the clause which requires each licensed male teacher to pay for the license, (or monopoly of teaching which such license gives to him against any unlicensed teacher) at the rate of two dollars each half year towards the support of superannuated or worn out members of his own profession.