

tion to the serious consequences arising from the prevalence of these certificates. The Minister held out a prospect of their gradual decrease. What has happened to cause an increase of over 100 per cent.? The only place we have an answer from is the district of Prescott and Russell, which Mr. Summerby, the Inspector, reports "is educationally a decade at least behind the western part of the Province," and "relatively farther behind than in 1871." "Labourers and domestic servants are paid higher wages than many of our teachers." Where the teachers' wages are so low we cannot be surprised that "parents will not incur the expense of paying a pupil's board for the time that would be necessary for him to attend the High School to prepare himself for passing the Intermediate." Hence, while there should be at least forty students in training at the Model School to supply the wants of the district, there were only four in 1881. With these statements before us, we are not surprised to find that in Prescott and Russell not less than sixty-nine teachers are employed on temporary certificates. This, however, is but one district out of forty-three, and we cannot look for the same backward state of education in the western parts of the Province. Should the Minister continue to authorize and extend these certificates in the future, he must expect to see a serious decrease in the number of those who aspire to Second Class Certificates, and as a result, the schools of the country will fall largely under the control of the lowest class of teachers. Of the 621 certificates extended, it would be interesting to know how many were extended on account of special fitness to teach, and how many to enable candidates to qualify for a Second Class Certificate. The only districts that did not employ teachers with these certificates are Durham and Haliburton. All the others employed teachers with extended certificates, and all but twelve those having temporary certificates. As Mr. Summerby has so much experience of the latter, it may be worth while to quote his opinion of them:—"I am every day more and more persuaded that much of the money paid to

teachers holding 'permits' [Temporary Certificates] is wasted."

#### SEPARATE SCHOOLS.

For the first time we have a report on the Separate Schools by Mr. White, their Inspector. He is evidently not inclined to look at the schools he has charge of through partisan spectacles, and his candid and discriminating criticism will result in good. Like Mr. Summerby, he places a very low value on the Quebec certificates, which are held by a number of French teachers on the eastern borders of Ontario. He declares "that a First Class Certificate from that Province ranks scarcely equal to a Third from our own."

#### HIGH SCHOOL INSPECTORS' REPORTS.

A stranger who would form his opinion of our Public and High Schools from Dr. McLellan's report would conclude that the representations we make of the excellence of our school system are as delusive as was our educational exhibit at the Centennial Exhibition. The Doctor must surely have been out of health when he wrote it, for it breathes the spirit of a pessimist from beginning to end. Indeed, so jaundiced are his views that he has not even the merit of Madame Blaise,

"Who never wanted a good word  
For those who spoke her praise."

We beg his pardon. On looking over his report again we find one exception, and Dr. Purslow of Port Hope is the happy man. His first complaint is of the Local Examiners in the Entrance Examination. Some "do not read and value the answers with sufficient care. Imperfect answers are marked too high, and occasionally even wrong answers are liberally marked." We will suggest an easy and effective remedy for this serious fault. Let the names of the schools that have to receive the scholars so carelessly passed be published, so that we may know not only where the fault but where the merit lies. The Public School teachers who prepare pupils for this examination are next taken to task. The penmanship of candidates is bad,