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CRAM-PROOF TEACHERS.

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OUR Education Department is certainly a progressive institution. It has been its custom to take one step every five years; but at the close of the last quinquennium it seems to have taken two, and no one need question the wisdom shown in such an advance. The whole tendency of the new order of things under the new curriculum is to thoroughness and breadth of learning. The institution of an examination for First Form pupils, with the additional stimulus of Honors for them, will certainly put an end to haphazard and unworthy promotions, and will be a matter of great satisfaction to all concerned, and then the addition of languages to the Junior Leaving curriculum is a step which will compel boys to begin at the right time the languages which have heretofore been put off, and finally crammed up for matriculation, after a Junior Leaving had been taken in Science. For a pupil who prepares the matriculation work in two or three languages, in one year, has certainly neglected a very important factor in his education, namely, time.

But with these additions to the High

School curriculum, the teachers are brought face to face with a most appalling question, and this refers in a greater degree to two-teacher and three-teacher schools, and here is the question, Where are we going to find time to teach *all the subjects*? Can we really teach them or shall we simply cram them up in order to pass as many pupils as possible?

And this question is certainly aggravated by the keen competition between neighboring schools. Men and women have begun to judge the efficiency of a staff of teachers and the school by the number of certificates obtained at the July examinations, and less than a week ago our daily papers contained a speech (made by a newspaper man who has wide influence because he is a member of Parliament and is also a graduate of Toronto University) in which a comparison of work in High Schools was made in a most dangerous way. The speaker, referring to one of the larger High Schools of the Province, pointed out that, with a staff of four teachers, that school had passed more pupils than four of the smallest schools in the Province whose teachers aggregated eleven. It is needless to