

table we learn that the aggregate in the six classes into which our school population is divided, was 460,984, sub-divided as follows:

First Class . . . . .	182,658
Second Class . . . . .	99,921
Third do . . . . .	85,389
Fourth do . . . . .	63,126
Fifth do . . . . .	24,029
Sixth do . . . . .	5,861

From this it will be seen that the pupils in the first four classes, (and these are the classes that do the work which Third Class Teachers are expected to be able to teach) number 431,094, leaving only 29,890 pupils or a trifle over 6 per cent. for the higher grades of the profession.

Turning again to table D which gives the standing of the teachers, we find that they range as follows :--

Provincial First Class . . . . .	245
do Second Class . . . . .	839
Old County First Class . . . . .	654
do Second Class . . . . .	507
do Third Class . . . . .	73
New County do . . . . .	2771
Interim Certificates . . . . .	553
Total . . . . .	5,642

Omitting from this table all the Old County Board Second and Third Class Certificates, as being of less value than the New County Third Class Certificates, and also striking out the Interim Certificates we find that while the pupils whose attainments require only Third Class teachers, represent 94 per cent. of our school population, the teachers with minimum qualification for the work to be done, represent only 80 per cent. of the entire teaching staff of the Province. Proportionately then, the teaching supply is higher by 14 per cent. than the educational demand. Or putting the case in another form, while there is only 6 per cent. of our school population requiring the services of any higher grade than the Third Class, 20 per cent. of the teaching power

of the country is engaged in teaching subjects not required by Third Class teachers.

It is tolerably clear then that we have not arrived at that point yet, in which there is a very great necessity for dispensing with Third Class Teachers. We are fully aware it will be urged, that "water cannot rise higher than its level"—that our teachers cannot rise higher than their teachers—that so long as the majority of our teachers are unable to teach anything above Fourth Class work, our schools will not be able to report any more than Third Class work. While this is, to a certain extent true, everybody must admit, that no matter what the attainments of the teacher might be, there is a certain plane beyond which the school cannot be elevated. Inspectors are often painfully apprised of this in their repeated visits. And we venture to say if they refer either to their notes or their recollections, they will agree with us when we say that many schools, now taught by Second Class Teachers, are not able to report a greater number of advanced pupils than they did years ago. The reason of this is clear. The demands for the home services of pupils after they pass the age of twelve or thirteen years, are so great and the attendance at school is so irregular, that anything like real progress, beyond a certain point, is quite impossible.

In regard to the supply of teachers little need be said. According to a statement published by the Education Department, showing the number of applications for certificates at the last July examination we learn the following :—

Number of applicants for 1st Class . . . . .	46
do do 2nd Class . . . . .	709
do do 3rd Class . . . . .	3109
Total . . . . .	3864

Being a number sufficiently great if all had passed, to supply 70 per cent. of the Public Schools of the Province.