

a series of articles in the same line with that indicated in Mr. Haultain's contribution. It is high time that the phase of our school work referred to by Mr. Haultain should be carefully examined, and proper remedies applied in order to check the annual waste of power and means to which the country is subjected at our usual midsummer examinations. We shall not deal any further with the question at present, except to state that we do not agree with the writer in the inferences he draws as to the competence or efficiency of the teachers, based as these inferences are, upon the answers given to the questions proposed by the University of Toronto and the Education Department of Ontario. We hope examiners and sub-examiners will duly remember the old saying, "a fool can ask more questions than a wise man can answer."

But on two points we are in full accord with Mr. Haultain, viz., the smoothness of the running of the educational machinery and the cheapness of the conduct of these examinations. If Mr. Haultain had stated that the Secondary Schools are so used by the central authorities as to excite keen competition among them to prepare the largest possible number of candidates to try, and if possible, to pass these examinations either as matriculants or teachers, he would simply be referring to a state of things well known to teachers for years, but which hitherto they have found themselves powerless to remedy. The consequence is that young people in Ontario, both boys and girls, leave the farm or whatever work the parents may be engaged in, if it involves work with the hands specially, and betake themselves to school teaching, or bookkeeping, or whatever occupations promise a livelihood with the least possible use

of manual labour, and there is no improvement in this respect as far as we can see. The change made this summer in the qualifications necessary for obtaining a III. Class Certificate renders its acquirement all the easier for the candidate. Besides all the privileges set forth by Mr. Haultain, and secured by each candidate for the sum of \$2, there are many other matters to consider.

In the course of preparation for these annual examinations, naturally many enquiries will be made, many directions will have to be given (quite foreign to school work proper) to candidates by the principal of the school. These conferences require judgment and experience on the part of him giving the advice; consume much time and strength, and entail a considerable amount of worry. Then after the examinations, certificates are to be given, appeals to be considered, whether they should be made or not; information to be furnished in regard to every conceivable phase of examinations, failure, marks obtained, etc,—all these things and many more are called for, without the slightest conception on the part of the applicant that the master is not paid for all this extra work either by the candidate or the public. It will be seen, therefore, that the \$2 cover a great many more particulars than were enumerated by Mr. Haultain. The truth is that the fee should be a great deal more, \$10, as was suggested years ago, and a considerable portion of this amount should be given to the master of the school for his extra trouble, and another part should go to the funds of the College of Preceptors.

We thank Mr. Haultain for his paper, and invite the profession to read it carefully, and let us have their views on the whole question in the pages of this magazine.