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OUR NEW NORMAL SCHOOLS.

We have repeatedly through the columns of the TEACHER, called public attention to the importance of having our schools supplied with *trained* teachers. The great defect of our educational system is the inexperience of a large majority of those who undertake the training of others, without having received anything like a substantial training themselves. To expect them to be efficient and thorough teachers at once is to expect impossibilities. The art of imparting instruction is not to be learned in a day. The young novice fresh from a public school, with merely education enough to pass an examination for a Third Class Certificate, and without any higher ideal of the requirements of a school than that gleaned from the most superficial observation, is sure to work at a disadvantage, and that which the trained teacher possesses from the beginning, is only obtained by him after repeated experiment and failure.

We have also shewn, in a previous article on this subject, that the loss to the public from the necessity of employing untrained

teachers, through the difficulty often of obtaining any other, is two fold—pecuniary and educational. The pecuniary loss consists in the remuneration paid for services *not* rendered, and which under the circumstances could not be rendered. The educational loss consists in the lack of development and progress—the inadequacy of the means used to the end sought after, and those glaring and serious defects which are almost invariably found in the work of an apprentice as compared with a master mechanic. To remedy those defects we have urged the importance of additional Normal Schools, and in reiterating our opinions on this subject, we can only say, that we will never derive anything like an equivalent for our enormous expenditure upon Public Schools, until they are placed under the care of those who know something of both the “theory and practice” of teaching.

The provision made for training teachers in Ontario, as compared with some of the American States, is worthy of notice. For instance, Illinois has 9, Iowa 3, Kentucky 3, Massachusetts 7, Pennsylvania, 6, New