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THIRD-CLASS TEACHERS AS ASSISTANTS IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

A good deal of confusion and embarrassment has arisen in many localities, owing to the determination of Trustees to employ none but a third-class teacher in their Schools. Trustees excuse the employment by them of third-class teachers on the ground that the law places no restriction on them as to the class of certificate which the teacher employed by them shall hold. True, the particular section of the Act, which authorizes them "to contract with and employ teachers for such school, section and determine the amount of their salaries," says nothing about the class of certificate which these teachers shall hold—the term "qualified teacher" being defined elsewhere—but it speaks of "teachers" for the school, and not a teacher, thereby implying that an assistant should be employed in every school. It, however, requires Trustees to "see" that their school "is conducted according to the authorized regulations;" and it further declares that "no Public Schools shall be entitled to any share in the fund applicable to it unless it is conducted according to the regulations provided by law." Now, these regulations require that the subjects mentioned in the Official Programme and Limit Table, and prescribed by the Legislature, shall be taught in the various classes of every school.

The law itself requires

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the teacher "to teach diligently and faithfully all the branches required to be taught in the School, * * according to the provisions of this Act."

Knowing that third-class teachers are not competent to teach "all the branches required to be taught in the School," the Council of Public Instruction has prescribed that in every School in which two or more teachers are employed, one of them "shall be designated and known as the master, and the others as first, second, assistant," etc. The regulations also give the master power, "to prescribe (with the assent of the Trustees) the duties of the several teachers in the School,"—but makes him responsible for the control and management of the classes under their charge." The regula-



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