

# THE ONTARIO TEACHER:

A MONTHLY EDUCATIONAL JOURNAL.

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Vol. 3.

NOVEMBER, 1875.

No. 11.

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## THIRD CLASS CERTIFICATES.

There appears to be a great diversity of opinion among Inspectors, and others connected with educational matters, in regard to the propriety of continuing Third Class Certificates. By some it is held that the educational status of our Public Schools is so high, and their necessities so great, that the only effect of handing them over to Third Class teachers, is to starve and depreciate them. By others, that both on account of the scarcity of the supply of teachers, and the inferior character of many of our schools, the attainments of a Third Class Teacher fully meet all their requirements. Both of these views deserve some notice,

According to the Programme laid down by the Council of Public Instruction for the Examination of Third Class Teachers, any candidate who is able to make 50 per cent. on the aggregate number of marks assigned in the examination papers is awarded a

Third Class Certificate. The presumption then is, that such a candidate is fully competent to teach all subjects within the limits of his examination. True, the candidate may make less than 50 per cent. in some subjects and exceed 50 per cent. in others, but an average of 50 per cent. is considered a sufficient test. If the certificates granted are below the standard required by our Public Schools, then it must be shown that the subjects taught, and the attainments of the pupils are such, as to demand a *higher* standard of qualification on the part of teachers. And here, let us observe that we are just now discussing this question from a purely literary stand-point. Well, what are the facts?

Table C of the Chief Superintendent's report of last year shows the number of pupils in all the schools of Ontario, on the basis of classification adopted by the Council of Public Instruction. From that