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NEW HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMME.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor in Council has been pleased to approve of the new High School Programme and Regulations adopted by the Interim Committee of the Council of Public Instruction on the 13th of November, and published on pages 178, 179 of this *Journal* for December. The first intermediate High School Examination, under the approved Programme and Regulations, will be held in June of the current year.—(See Explanation of Programme, &c., on pages 2, 11 and 16.

SUFFICIENT SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION
AND TEACHERS.

THE taking of the School Census in December, under the authority of the Trustees, and as required by law, will no doubt bring under the immediate notice of the School Inspectors the fact that the school accommodation in many sections, and in some villages, towns, and cities, is not at all equal to the requirements of the law, and the school necessities of the neighbourhood. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the Inspectors will see that while, on the one hand, the law requires that each child should receive at least four months' tuition, the Public School Trustees should, on the other hand, fur-

nish, as the law prescribes, "adequate school accommodation for all the school residents of the Section or division." This they have ample powers to do. No public meeting or other parties can deprive them of this power, or interfere with them in its exercise. If the proper accommodation be not provided, parents can plead that neglect on the part of the Trustees as a reasonable excuse for keeping their children at home. Under such circumstances, it will be impossible for the Inspectors or the Department to see to the "due carrying out" of the compulsory clauses of the School Act.

"Free Schools" and "Compulsory Education" are the necessary complement the one of the other ; and the ratepayers, especially those in cities and large towns, have a right to demand that the one part of the Act should be reasonably enforced, while they are prepared to comply with the demands made under the other for the support of Free Schools.

To show the great impetus which the law of 1871 gave to school building, &c., in Ontario, we may mention that in 1870 the expenditure for school sites and buildings only reached the sum of \$207,500 ; in 1874 it was \$650,000, or more than three times as much.

We have, therefore, great reason to congratulate ourselves and the large majority of the School Corporations on the zeal and enterprise with which they have generally complied with the law in regard to school accommodation. Upwards of \$2,000,000 have been expended during the four years (1871-1874, inclusive,) since the new law came in force, in the purchase or enlargement of school sites, and the erection and repairs of school-houses.

As a necessary consequence of increased school accommodation, the employment of a second teacher, when the number of pupils on the roll exceeds 50, is essential. Inspectors have, in some cases, interpreted this regulation to mean "an average attendance of 50 ;" but this is not the provision of the law or regulation on the subject.

To the inquiry of an Inspector on the subject the following reply was sent :—"The interpretation which you have given to the regulations in regard to two teachers, and the average attendance in a school, is one which they do not bear. Such