

see that the one before us is still a thing of shreds and patches—here a little and there a little. The idea entertained by the Department of the mental digestive powers of the Public School Master and of the pabulum suitable for him in the higher stages of his growth, are peculiar, and we sorrowfully admit that a diligent and earnest consideration of the whole subject, has left us as much in the dark as we were before as to the object of the omissions and alterations to which we have directed attention. Some of the changes are, as we have said, admirably adapted to further the interests of sound scholarship, and the general plan is one that meets with our full approval, but we regret to have to add that where its compilers have striven to be original, they have ended in being ridiculous. Perhaps in the meantime it would be as well for the Department to carry out the safe, if unambitious, policy of following public opinion at a respectful distance, rather than of endeavouring to lead it. The former course has manifold advantages, whereas, to render the latter successful, certain qualifications are indispensable on the part of those who make the effort.

Throughout our remarks, we have proceeded on the supposition that the Programme has been framed with a view to its adoption in our High Schools. The recently revised High School programme justifies this supposition, and the fact that there are even now in several of our Schools, far larger classes preparing for First Class certificates than in the Normal School, shows the necessity for such a consideration. If the object of the promoters of the Programme has been, by harassing the High Schools, to force candidates for First Class Certificates to attend the Normal School at Toronto, some good would certainly result: it would give employment to the not over-burdened teachers of these institutions. At the same time we may be permitted to doubt whether the interests of the community would be benefited by such an arrangement. It is well known that had it not been for special and peculiar inducements, many a teacher who has prepared himself for a certificate at the Normal

School, would never have gone there, and it is almost too much to expect that a staff that has failed to discharge, to the satisfaction of students, the duties hitherto devolving on it, will succeed any better if called on to perform work demanding higher attainments and greater ability.

#### LEGISLATIVE AID TO HIGH SCHOOLS.

When the Provincial Treasury was saved a large expenditure annually and on capital account, by the High Schools assuming the preparation of Second-class Teachers in the non-professional subjects, it was expected by the High School authorities that additional Legislative aid would be given, and that all the burden would not be thrown on the localities in which these schools are situated. The Province at large reaps directly the benefit, for the certificates are Provincial, and it is only natural to suppose that the Province should pay for what it receives. The position of matters is different in the case of Third-class Certificates, for these are valid only in the County where they have been obtained, and the County cannot complain of any expenditure on their behalf. At the very least the Legislative grant to High Schools should have undergone no diminution. But High School authorities have seen with alarm that the grant for 1879 has been decreased in some mysterious way. Hitherto the sum of \$14,600 has been distributed on the results of the Intermediate. This amount is now reduced to \$10,000, and, allowing for the increased grant based on the average attendance, about \$3,000 of the sum apportioned by the Legislature has disappeared apparently into the vast depths of Departmental expenses. When and where is this sort of thing going to stop? The total amount distributed to the High Schools under the head of "Payment by Results" is now \$20,000, that is, the \$10,000 which the Inspectors manipulate, and \$10,000 for the Upper School attendance. Not to speak of incidentals which, in the only years of which we have any record, amounted to a ver large sum, the High School Inspec-