

but qualified pupils. Smithville—admitted five, all far below the mark. St. Catharines—admitted forty-seven, and has now one hundred and eighty-eight on roll; about three times as many as it had a year and a half ago.

*Dunnville.*—Thirty-nine on roll; (twenty-three girls) twenty-two admitted. Trustees and masters admitted that these were far below the legal standard, but had to have two teachers, and must give them something to do; would soon work the juniors up, &c. The teacher gave "To love our enemies is a command given," "to" a preposition, governs the noun; "to love" an intransitive verbal noun; "command" objective case, governed by is. "We must obey our rulers;" "must obey" intransitive verb, indicative mood, &c. "The boy with the long black hair was found in the wood." All entrants failed to parse "boy;" "hair" is a verb, third person, singular, objective case, governed by with. "John runs swiftly." "John" a verb, third person, singular, &c., &c. None of these entrants could do the elementary questions above mentioned; many of them could not get through the multiplication table.

*Caledonia.*—Thirty-six on roll; twenty-five admitted. Only seven of whole school got subtraction question. The arithmetic utterly bad.

Also read the following by the late Rev. J. G. D. McKenzie, in regard to the Ottawa High School, placed in first or highest class(!)

*Ottawa.*—The deficiencies of the "entrance" pupils in this case took me much by surprise. Twenty-five were present at the inspection, and were subjected in the first instance to an oral examination in parsing. With the exception of the relative "that" everything was missed except by some two or three. I then tried them with written work, the result being not much more satisfactory. Arithmetic also was weak. So glaring were the deficiencies of these pupils that one of the masters confessed they were the worst of the kind they had ever had. From causes on which I do not feel called upon to enter, and which, perhaps, I do not fully apprehend, there has sprung up a feeling of positive alienation between the Collegiate Institute and the Public Schools of the City, so that the former is almost wholly cut off from its nat-

ural source of supply, and depends mainly on pupils from private schools. This is a very serious evil. I am happy to say, the trustees are sensible of it, and will take steps to rectify it."

We are aware that the Inspectors endeavor to throw blame upon the system of Entrance Examination, and the amount of work required of High School Masters. Admitting the force of this, as a reason for the present state of affairs, then it follows, as our High Schools have been working under the present system for the last thirty years, that their condition, in all probability, for that time has been deplorably bad, and that the money paid in this way has been, to a great extent, wasted. The country really cannot afford to pay so large an amount out of the public funds for such "loose teaching," or bad management, as the reports of the High School Inspectors display.

Now, the question might be asked, why this inefficiency? We have already referred to the explanation given by one of the Inspectors; but is that explanation sufficient? Has there not been too great a laxity allowed in the establishment of High Schools—an utter disregard, in some cases, of all the conditions required to make them successful? Have they not, in too many cases, attempted to do work which should have been left to the Public School, and which, we have reason to believe, would have been better done by the Public School? Have they not been bolstered up by Boards of Trustees, and packed with pupils from the Public School, simply to draw on the School Fund? Is it not also true that there are a greater number of High Schools than the wants of the country require? We do not want to be understood as opposed to the establishment or increase of High Schools, but we do most distinctly say, if their inefficiency is such as the Reports of Inspectors already referred to would lead us to believe, then, the fewer of such schools the better. Far