

A CORRESPONDENT who is in one of our High Schools criticizes the High School Bill. We again express the hope that the Minister will allow the Schools Bills, especially the High School Bill, to remain till next session of the Legislature in order that educationists may give the country the benefit of their experience and views. The Rev. Septimus Jones states a truth very often lost sight of when he says:—"Almost any system of tolerable merit, steadily adhered to, is incomparably better than a quick succession of changes which, however excellent in themselves, are costly and perplexing to the public and distracting to the teacher."

Thus we wrote last month in the expectation that the Government, having obtained all the information which the members of the Legislature could give, would delay the final reading of the School Bills until next session, thereby giving an opportunity to those practically acquainted with school affairs to consider the proposed changes and advise accordingly the Minister of Education. That the Government has so acted towards the teachers of the country disappoints us much, nor can we assign any adequate reason for such treatment of the educators of Ontario.

THE Public and High School Bills, as finally passed, contain several provisions of interest to our readers. The Superannuation Fund is now limited to those who are at present contributors to it. Contributions are to be at the same rate, four dollars per annum. All arrears must be paid in by those who wish to reap the full benefit from the Fund before July, 1886. Teachers holding First Class County Board Certificates are put on the same footing as those holding Provincial Certificates in being allowed seven dollars per annum instead of six for the time they have held such certificates, when they are superannuated. Any teacher who wishes to withdraw from contributing to the Fund will receive back one-half of what he has paid in, or he may let it remain and reap the benefit from it in proportionate allowance upon the usual conditions when he is superannuated. City, town, incorporated village and town-

ship Boards, are given the option of having the election of School Trustees by ballot, provided they have it at the same time and place as the municipal election. The school age is fixed definitely at five to twenty-one years. It is made compulsory on County Councils to establish at least one Model School in each county, and to contribute for its support one hundred and fifty dollars per year. The Government will in future allow only twenty-five dollars instead of fifty per year to Teachers' Institutes; but the President of each Institute is empowered to draw upon the County or City Council for the other twenty-five. In rural sections the summer holidays are to extend from the first Friday in July till the third Monday in August; the Christmas holidays from the twenty-third of December till the third of January, and the Easter holidays will be only Good Friday and Easter Monday. The power which trustees have had to curtail the summer holidays is withdrawn. In cities, towns and villages the holidays are to be the same as those for the High Schools. Third Class Certificates are not limited to counties as was at first proposed, but are made Provincial. Any teacher employed for not less than three months shall be entitled to be paid his salary according to the ratio which the number of days he has taught bears to the whole number of teaching days in the year. High School Boards, in places where there are Separate Schools, must have one trustee, who shall be elected by the Board of such Separate School. High School Boards are empowered to expel any pupil on the report of the Head Master. The remuneration to examiners at the Entrance Examinations is fixed at four dollars a day, and in addition not less than seventy-five cents for every pupil presenting himself for examination. The summer holidays are to begin on the first Friday of July and end on the last Monday in August; the Christmas holidays are to extend from the twenty-second of December to the seventh of January, and the Easter holidays are to be only Good Friday and Easter Monday. Provision is made for the teaching of preparatory classes, but they are not to participate in the Legislative Grant, nor are they to be taught by any member of the regular staff. Payment of results receives its quietus, as the Legislative Grant is now to be apportioned on the basis of the salaries paid, the character of the school buildings, etc., and on the average attendance.