

HIGH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.

THE HIGH SCHOOL GRANT.

AMONG the questions that received special attention at the last meeting of the Provincial Teachers' Association, and on which there seemed to be great unanimity, was that relating to "Legislative Aid to Secondary Education." Considering the increased practical importance now attached to this department of education; from the extended course of study now prescribed, involving additional teachers and requiring expensive appliances; and from the fact that no inconsiderable part of the work formerly done by the Normal Schools has been handed over to the High Schools, it was urged, very reasonably we think, that the present grant is much too small, and that the Minister should ask for an increase.

It is also claimed—when it is asked whence additional revenue is to be derived—that the large grants to Upper Canada College ought no longer to be given to *one* specially favoured High School, but applied to High School education generally. Doubtless a full discussion of the question may be looked for at the approaching session of our Legislature, when the opponents of this form of monopoly will have an opportunity of shewing herein at least one source of legitimate increase to High School income. We are pleased to notice a disposition on the part of High School Masters to effect an amicable and quiet settlement of the question raised as to the relative position of High Schools and Collegiate Institutes. After discussion in the H. S. section, the matter was left to a competent committee, which was empowered to adopt such measures as may best promote those important interests common to all grades of High Schools. Until we receive the report of this committee very little need be said in addition to what has already appeared, principal-

ly in correspondence. There is evidently a growing tendency on the part of our best High Schools to advance to the rank of Collegiate Institutes; and we must regard this as a healthy indication—one to be encouraged in every suitable way. There need be no immediate fear of our having too many Institutes. Since the course of study is in no way degraded by their multiplication, as in the undue increase in the number of degree-granting Colleges, we think this forward tendency need excite neither fear nor jealousy.

It appears that one special ground of complaint on the part of some High Schools (that their income is lessened to supply the special grant to Institutes) has been removed; since, as is now well known, the latter is an entirely separate and independent appropriation.

THE INTERMEDIATE EXAMINATION.

Two defects of this Examination might be easily remedied, and we trust that the Minister will give them his attention :—

1. This summer—as indeed every summer—many candidates from High Schools go up for examination who have not the slightest chance of passing, either in their own opinion or in that of their teachers; and thus the cost to the Department and to High School Boards is very much increased. At one school at least, to the knowledge of the writer, over one hundred candidates wrote—only some sixty of whom the Head Master believed to have a chance of passing. In our opinion, no student from a High School should be allowed to write unless recommended by the Head Master of the school. In the case of the school referred to, although a large number passed, there will be only some \$20 or \$30 left to be applied to educational purposes