

applicants. All the applicants possessed at least second-class certificates, a large number were university graduates, the great majority of them had secured their qualifications in Ontario, and, for the most part, they had been actively engaged in the teaching profession. The positions and the salaries attached were such as should have secured applications from the highest class of teachers, and I have no reason for supposing that the large number of applicants who offered their services did not represent a fair average of the teachers who consider themselves able to fill and hold the necessary Government qualifications to occupy the higher positions in their profession.

In such a class one would naturally look for some of the best results of our Higher Education. It would be taken as a matter of course that those competent to take charge of the education of our youth should at least be able to write, to spell, and to use the Queen's English correctly; and it would not unreasonably be expected that they should exhibit some evidences of that good sense, sound judgment, culture and refinement which the best education is expected to produce and which, unless possessed by himself, a teacher cannot impart to those placed under his control. In these qualities, however, as well as in the elementary attainments first mentioned, the applications in question showed a large number of the applicants to be lamentably deficient. Fully seventy-five per cent. of them could be passed over without a second reading—many of them without being read through at all—and of the remainder it did not take long to discard all but half a dozen.

In the first place the writing of most of the applications was bad; and the badness was not of that order which, because of its character, is often condoned in the writing of

scholars and geniuses. A number were written in those large, irregular and clumsy characters which one is accustomed to find in the exercise books of young scholars. A still larger number were written in a prim, copy-book hand, some fairly good of its kind, some rather shaky, particularly in the flourishes, but all quite characterless, so much so that it was generally impossible to distinguish the sex of the applicant until the end of the letter was reached. The spelling was somewhat better than the writing, but mistakes in that were numerous. One applicant, for instance, announces that she is a "Gold medalist" of some educational institution. Another, who states he holds both Ontario and North-West Territory Second Class Certificates, spells the capital of the Territories "Reginna," not once but several times. One makes "through" a word of two syllables and divides it thus, "throu-gh"; one divides "reasons" into two syllables thus, "re-asons"; another divides "application," "applicat-ion"; another, "furthering" in this way, "furtheri-ng." The applications containing these latter mistakes were not type-written, or one might be inclined to excuse the errors, nor do the mistakes appear to have been rendered imperative by great lack of space at the end of a line. The Queen's English suffers rather severely at the hands of these its guardians. One who holds an Ontario First-Class Professional Certificate and states he has "taught English with good success," writes thus: "Having noticed your advertisement for a Principal to take charge of your Public School, I wish to apply for the same." This gentleman's speciality, according to his own statement, is mathematics, but it does not appear that his study of the exact sciences has taught him to avoid ambiguity of expression. It is not clear whether