

of the Province, to all the Model School Principals and to the Mathematical Masters for replies on behalf of all the teachers of the various High Schools and Collegiate Institutes.

QUESTIONS.

1. If the primary examination be abolished, do you think that Arithmetic and Grammar should be replaced on the Junior Leaving Examination?

2. (a) How many teachers in your school are in favor of having these subjects so replaced?

(b) How many are opposed?

3. If fear of overcrowding the curriculum of the Junior Leaving Examination be urged as an objection, what remedy is suggested?

On issuing these circulars I was told by one whose opinion on such matters I value that there would be very few replies, that circulars are usually thrown aside, and that it is generally impossible to get an adequate expression of opinion from a large constituency by such means. It speaks well for the interest shown in the subject when I have to report that nearly half of the circulars were replied to by the Inspectors and one third by the Model School Principals and by the High School and Collegiate Institute Masters.

These 93 replies represented the opinions of 255 out of 714 High School Masters, Collegiate Institute Masters, Model School Principals and Public School Inspectors in the Province.

Now, an expression of opinion from 255 out of 714 may not be considered very valuable, even though 19 were in favor of replacing arithmetic and only 36 were opposed (in other words 24% answered, 29% in favor and 5% against). Yet when it is pointed out that our esteemed President only gave the opinion of his Principal besides his own, that the author of the latest text book in arithmetic, who is Master of quite a large Collegiate Institute, did

not reply, and that only one of the Three Toronto schools replied, and that a former champion, and I believe still a champion, of mathematics in the Province, gave only his own opinion and not those of the rest of the staff in his Institute, it can readily be understood that all the silent majority were not hostile, but that if their opinions could be obtained the result would be overwhelmingly in favor of the adoption of arithmetic, at all events, for Junior Leaving work.

It would be impossible in the short time at our disposal this afternoon to read all the answers received. I shall, therefore, endeavor to classify them and give a few of the more striking.

I. The opinions of the 31 Public School Inspectors are unanimously in favor of replacing arithmetic on the Junior Leaving Examination; one doubts whether it would be advisable to restore grammar, and another is decidedly opposed to continuing grammar beyond the present requirements.

The answers to question (1) "Should Arithmetic and Grammar be replaced on the Junior Leaving Examination?" are very strong; here are some:

"Emphatically, yes."

"They should never have been taken off."

"Yes, decidedly."

"Yes, at all events Arith."

"Yes, at any rate for students intending to teach."

"Yes, and on Senior Leaving also."

"These subjects are absolutely essential."

Three Inspectors state that all the teachers of their Inspectorates are in favor of so restoring arithmetic and grammar, another "that nearly all the experienced teachers, about 130 out of 155," are in favor of this suggested change and "none are really opposed." Another reports that the following resolution was carried unanimously at the county convention:

"Resolved that in the opinion of