

be absent; to entrust to the Inspector the usual work required of Head Masters of County Model Schools, except the teaching of elocution and mental arithmetic, and the keeping of the records. "*The term in the Model School shall be a FULL YEAR,*" after which the teachers-in-training shall be allowed to attend the Provincial Normal School to receive the necessary training for professional second-class certificates, provided they pass a satisfactory examination in the prescribed professional work for third-class certificates.

Our readers will at once see the important features of this scheme. The length of the pupil-teacher's term of apprenticeship is increased, and at its termination they are given the privilege of at once applying for their professional second-class certificate. While we heartily commend the enlightened action of the Toronto Public School Board in taking this important step—a step which we hope soon to see followed by other cities and the large towns of the Province where Model Schools exist—we regret that it did not benefit further by the experience already acquired in the working of the Model School system, in setting the Head Master free, for instance, from any teaching duty, so that he might have more time to devote to supervising the training of his students. The plan is radically faulty, too, in making all the schools Model Schools; indeed, the word in this sense is a misnomer, unless every teacher employed by the Board is a model teacher. It would have been wiser for the Board to have selected one of the largest schools, where the greatest number of the lower classes is taught, and to have promoted some of its most efficient and accomplished teachers to that school, so that the students, so soon as they had entered on their apprenticeship, would have an opportunity of seeing and learning the best methods of conducting a class. The knowledge thus acquired could then be perfected by practice in the other schools. If teaching has any claim to be considered as an art, based on scientific principles, this is the proper mode of learning it. If the inspector could be ubiquitous, the plan proposed by the Toronto Board would be a good one,

for then he could have constant oversight of all the teaching done by the students under him. Failing this, what is to keep them from being in a continual fog by learning, in every school they go to, a different method of managing a class? No doubt in the lectures on education an attempt will be made to teach them the principles of the science, and in those on school management they will be instructed how to apply these principles in practice. But if lectures were delivered until the lecturer was dumb, and the hearers were deaf, they would be a poor substitute for careful practice under a skilled teacher who knows by experience how to apply in the best way the principles of his art in the daily work of the school-room.

We estimate the enlightened action of the Toronto Board so highly that we would like to have seen it made under the most promising conditions for success. Faulty as it is, however, we shall watch its results with a great deal of interest, and though all the good that might have been secured from it is impossible under the clogging circumstances that accompany it, we have no doubt that it is the beginning of a beneficial change in the mode of educating teachers.

#### HOW TO INFLUENCE SCHOOL LEGISLATION.

THE majority of our local Associations seem not yet to be awake to the fact that a Superintendent whose sole business and aim it was to attend to the interests of education in the Province no longer rules in the Education Department, but that a member of the local Cabinet, as Minister of Education, reigns in his stead. They should remember when they pass resolutions and forward copies of them to him, that he can give heed to them only so far as prudential considerations for the votes of the House, or of his own constituents' permit. Teachers should take a hint from this, and forward copies of the resolutions passed at their meetings, not only to him, but to their own local members. If the matter is one of importance let them even.