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UNIVERSITY CONSOLIDATION.

A short time ago the Rev. Principal Grant, of Queen's College, Kingston, in the course of a public address in this city, alluded to the question of University consolidation in such a way as to leave the impression that the authorities of that institution would be prepared to consider any reasonable scheme that might be proposed for the fusion of all the Universities of the Province into one degree-conferring corporation. We do not propose to discuss the question here as a measure of public policy, though it might very well bear discussion from that point of view. Our present object is simply to point out its bearing on the work of the High Schools and the desirability of promoting it on the ground of the benefit it would confer on these institutions.

Hitherto, the great difficulty the High School masters have had to encounter, has been the diversity of the studies pursued by the pupils. Many of them take simply a commercial or English course, which they can now do and still pass the Intermediate Examination. Others attend for the purpose of preparing for matriculation in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. Some intend to matriculate in the Law Society. Others purpose entering one or other of our Universities; while a very large number are intending candidates for Public School Teachers' certificates. This diversity of aims leads to excessive subdivision of classes, and adds greatly to the work and worry of the teachers. Matters are not quite so bad in this respect since the Intermediate has been accepted, as a substitute for third-class non-professional certificates, and also for those of both grades of the second-class. The Law Society has also made a movement in the right direction by assimilating its matriculation work to that of the Provincial University, while the work for the Intermediate has been so arranged as to be almost identical with both. The Medical Council, still holds out, however, and each University has still its own distinct curriculum for matriculation. If complete consolidation cannot be effected, it would surely be possible to harmonize the entrance examinations in such a way as to

make them, to a great extent, correspond, the Intermediate being the basis of them all, as it now is of the Junior Matriculation in the University of Toronto. It is difficult to estimate fully the amount of benefit which such a consolidation would confer upon secondary education in this Province, and the amount of relief the teachers would experience as the result of it.

Recent indications go to show that if some such scheme is not carried out, the Provincial University will have a virtual monopoly of the intending University students now in training at the High Schools. At the Junior Matriculation this year, one hundred and twenty-nine candidates presented themselves; the largest number ever before sent up being about seventy-five. This extraordinary increase looks abnormal, but it is really not so, as a moment's observation will show. During the past two years the Intermediate High School work has been practically identical, so far as it goes, with the work now prescribed for matriculation, and the sudden increase is due to the fact that so many High School pupils, girls as well as boys, now find themselves at the Intermediate stage able to go up for matriculation with a reasonable hope of being able to pass. We predicted such a result long ago; and if other Universities do not follow the example of the Senate of Toronto University, and frame their entrance examinations with a view to the utilization of the Intermediate, they will find themselves, however amply endowed, practically without either students or undergraduates.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING OF TEACHERS.

There are those in Canada, even in the teaching profession, who think that it would be unnecessary to adopt the suggestion made in the last number of the JOURNAL, relative to the teaching of Psychology in our Normal Schools. They think it would be going ahead too fast. It is somewhat singular that some of these same teachers hold the opinion that Canada is ahead of the world in educational matters. Ontario was ahead of the world in its educational exhibit at the Centennial Exposition, so far as educational appliances were concerned; but not many Canadians were highly elated after comparing the actual school work of their own and other countries. Our tools were most excellent; the specimens of work done with them were small in number, and comparatively—to put it mildly—anything but satisfactory to the intelligent and impartial Canadian. It is true that the highest results of a good system of education cannot be fully shown on paper, but it is also true that they can thus be shown to a very great extent, at least to experts.

The first international exhibition convinced intelligent Englishmen that in the department of arts and manufactures they were a long way behind some other European countries. The result was a great awakening, and the awakening led to prompt and decided action. Technical education received so much attention and encouragement, that in less than a quarter of a century England was able to take her position at the head of the world in her own department of work.