

of Ontario that the operation of the device of dividing the Matriculation Examination into two parts is harmful to the best interests of education, is ruinous to the rational development of the youth of Ontario. And, we submit, that the evil results of this ill-considered device should not be allowed to fall upon the High Schools.

There are several ways of relieving the abnormal pressure which exists in our secondary schools, and which is largely owing to the unwise arrangements of subjects in our scheme of many examinations.

It is said that the reduction made in the work required of matriculants by the revised curriculum amounts to 25 per cent. of the old curriculum. For such a reduction we were quite unprepared. The only subject against which we heard any complaint was the Latin, viz., that there was too much text required of candidates. But not a word did we hear in regard to any other subject.

And no reduction, certainly, should have been made in English. We are an English-speaking people: kind readers, excuse the reference, we ought to know and understand our mother tongue.

Not many years ago there was quite a discussion on the subject whether it would not be advisable to shorten the time of attendance at the University to three years, thus giving the candidates the opportunity of covering the first year work in their High Schools. What has caused the abandonment of an ideal standard for our schools? We will be pleased to hear from some member of Senate giving reasons, or some reason for the change of policy.

There are several other questions involved in the revised curriculum which invite discussion, but we must wait the action of the Education Department before referring to them.

The first of our Empire Days has passed off with considerable *clat*, the celebrations giving promise of their extension throughout every part of the British dominions in the years to come. As usual there has been a little "fluttering in the doves-cots" of the would-be critical as to the origin of the movement, but what true Canadian Briton cares where the idea came from as long as he can bear witness to its realization? To the Hon. Dr. Ross is due the honor of giving the idea an impetus, while to Montreal is due the honor of celebrating the inauguration on the largest and most attractive scale. The cities of Toronto, Halifax, and Quebec were not behind hand, and in another year we have every reason to believe that every school in the land will celebrate the day in a fitting manner. An Empire Day literature has already entered upon its course, and its volume will no doubt continue to swell from year to year.

It seems at times, from the standpoint of the patriotic educationist in Canada, a misfortune that Dominion Day should fall upon a *non dies* of the school year. There is not the fervency about our "First of July" that there is about the "Fourth of July" of our neighbors, and it is somewhat of a damper upon the celebrations of such national holidays as the Queen's Birthday and Dominion Day, that the French-speaking inhabitants of Canada take little or no part in the rejoicings. The first two are proclaimed public holidays, but beyond the closing of the banks and the public offices and a few of the business places, one would hardly know in some of our towns that the patriotism of a people was being celebrated. These public celebrations are an education to the young and if they