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HIGH VS. PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Our remarks in the October No. of the ONTARIO TEACHER have given rise to a good deal of criticism. We have received the strongest assurances from different quarters that the work done by our High Schools, compared with the expenditure, is not at all equal to the work of the Public Schools, and that a radical change, by which more work might be secured for a given expenditure, or the number of feeble, sickly High Schools reduced, ought at once to be brought about.

We have also reason to believe that our remarks in regard to High Schools have, in some instances, been misapprehended. We did not at all intend to convey the idea that High School teachers are, as a class, incompetent. We know well to the contrary. Indeed, some of the best educators in the Province are to be found among them. But, whatever may be our own opinion in regard to individuals, we were obliged, from the reports of High School Inspectors, to assume that there was great and gross inefficiency somewhere. By

some correspondents, this inefficiency is charged to the Public Schools, from which the High School scholars are drafted. By others it is charged upon the High Schools themselves. Mr. McLellan, High School Inspector, from whose report we quoted pretty freely, throws the *onus* upon the Public Schools, and endeavors to make it appear that his report was made by us to serve a purpose for which it was never intended. In a recent communication to a leading daily paper, he says that his reports were "private and partial, and merely designed to show that, as the entrance examinations in general were not sufficiently stringent, many pupils found their way into the High School who were quite unprepared to enter upon a High School curriculum with advantage." He says "they were not to be taken as official documents relating to the general efficiency of the schools."

We are extremely sorry if by quoting from Mr. McLellan's report, we have done our High Schools an injustice. We, how-