

for the School Board or trustees and clergyman of any denomination to agree upon any hour of the day at which a clergyman, or his authorized representative, may give religious instruction to the pupils of his own church, provided it be not during the regular hours of the school.

HIGH SCHOOL ASSISTANTS.

WE understand that the Minister of Education intends to put in force some scheme for the professional training of Assistant-Masters and teachers in High Schools and Collegiate Institutes. So far as we can gather the plan is to be of the following nature:—First class teachers and graduates who have not taught are to spend three or four months in some school selected by the Minister, and subsequently be examined on prescribed educational works. Before a teacher can obtain a first class (professional) now, he must spend thirteen weeks at a County Model School, teach a year on a third class certificate, attend a course of lectures and training in the Normal School for six months, and thereafter successfully teach for three years. We submit that it is asking too much from men who have given evidence of considerable ability in the management of schools and the teaching of classes, to require them to pursue professional training in a secondary school for a further term of three or four months. It seems to us that what is required in the case of High School assistants is attendance at a College for a year or two, together with the passing of the usual examinations of such institutions for these years. In truth, we trust the day is not far distant when it will be possible for all our High School Masters and teachers to be graduates. The case of graduates without experience in teaching is a difficult one. There is no doubt that masters have felt for some time that something should be done to better equip, professionally, young graduates just entering on the difficult and exacting duties of a teacher. The proposed solution of the problem is, to say the least, crude and unsatisfactory. Before coming to any decision on the question,

the Minister of Education might, without any loss of dignity, and with advantage to the question under consideration, have waited for the opinion of the Committee appointed by the High School Masters at the summer convention. For the present, we will not follow the matter farther than to invite masters to make use of our columns to express their opinion on this important practical question. The solution proposed by the Minister is not one which commends itself to our judgment.

THE DEPARTMENT AND THE SCHOOL READERS.

THE decision come to by the Department of Education, and of which Minister Ross, we believe, frankly accepts the responsibility of discarding the several series of Readers which private enterprise had prepared for introduction into the Schools of the Province, and authorizing a series of its own, is, we need hardly say, a grave one. Without wishing altogether to condemn Government action in this matter, we must be allowed as frankly to regret it. And we regret it for these reasons: 1st. Because Government interference with trade is, to say the least, impolitic, and leads, as has been historically attested, to very questionable practices in connection with the officials, high and low, of the Education office. 2nd. Because it opens the door to every kind of tinkering with the authorized school-books; to needless changes of text-books, and consequent annoyance and expense to the public; to no little jubbery in connection with favoured firms, or individuals in the book trade; and reprehensibly holds out visions of fat things to departmental *protégés*, and no end of nice pickings to professional favourites of the minister or needy hangers-on of party. Though all this, and more, has been said by this Magazine in dealing with the subject of reading books for use in the schools, we deem it well to recur once again to what has been the expressed conviction of many in a matter of gravest import to Educational interests, to the independence of the pro-