

The Ontario Educational System.

FROM THE TAX-PAYER'S POINT OF VIEW.—I.

The Educational System of Ontario, as a system, has deservedly won wide-spread admiration. With our free schools almost at every door, our High Schools, and, to crown all, our Provincial University, it is the proud boast of Canadians that every man, whatever his means calling or position in life, has equal access to the fountain of knowledge and an equal chance of rising to the highest position in the State.

The system has now been long enough in operation to enable us to measure it by its results. What do we see? The Province, in the last fifteen years, has gradually and surely been losing all the characteristics of a youthful country; the farming industry is not being extended as it ought, not because all the government lands are taken up, but because those who have been born and bred as farmers, having once tasted of the sweets of learning will no longer work with their hands, and face the hardships of pioneer life; while in the case of the few who do return to agriculture, the more shrewd farmers are beginning to see that the young man, as a result of this higher education, to use their own expression, "gets a bee in his bonnet and becomes no good." In nearly every town and city in the Province there is at least one-third more professional men than are needed, whose services, therefore, are practically worthless and a source of waste to the country, by the withdrawal of men from the class of