

grand opportunities in their desired lines of work. Now, by all these considerations and more, the efficiency of the university will be considerably increased, and the interests of higher education in the country advanced.

Then in regard to higher degrees, we notice a great change. Instead of conferring the degree of doctor of science (D.Sc.) on a candidate who obtained first-class honors in any two departments of literature, philosophy, mathematics and science, two years after date of graduation as M.A., and on deliverance of three satisfactory lectures, the authorities have decided to confine that degree to the two last named departments, viz., mathematics and science. And they have instituted the degree of doctor of philosophy (Ph. D.) in the two first named departments, viz., literature and philosophy. These degrees will be conferred on candidates who have pursued courses in the respective departments, four years after date of graduation as M.A. and on submitting of a thesis embodying the results of original investigation.

We might say that, to one looking at these courses as laid down, they appear easy and attractive. However easy they may be when we come to pursue the work remains to be seen; but we hope that the attraction will be very effective, and that many men will be induced to follow them up, not only for their own good but for the higher interests of the community. Surely no one can deny that this is a step in the direction of the promotion of the higher education and consequently the higher interests of this country. It would be gratifying indeed to see the Provincial and other universities do all in their power to encourage this higher, post-graduate work, and thus make our Canada a nation of strong men. They will certainly not oppose such steps.

We are aware, of course, that before now the Provincial university especially has at first, openly rejected and disparaged new measures proposed by Queen's, but in time, when the wisdom and truth of such measures began to be realised, they were received and gradually worked into the fibres of that university's system. Little disparagement should appear against such a high end as is presented in this new scheme. We cannot but commend the wisdom displayed by the authors in the planning of such a curriculum.

We sincerely hope that, under its direction, there may be annually turned out large numbers of strong men, such as shall shed lustre on the name of Queen's and honor on our noble country.

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CONVOCATION.

A few years ago an attempt was made by the University authorities to regulate the attendance at convocation and so prevent the uncomfortable jam which had hitherto greatly interfered with the success and enjoyment of the exercises. With this end in view tickets were systematically distributed, the holders of which were allowed to enter the hall before the general public,

and thus, it was expected, much confusion and crowding would be avoided.

This arrangement, in our opinion, has been only half successful, for the simple reason that the doors were not opened early enough. As a matter of fact, instead of the result aimed at, convocation hall has been filled almost at one rush, and a most undignified rush at that, because the audience had accumulated outside the closed doors on the green, and when access was obtained there followed a general *saute qui peut*.

Now since the remedy for such an apparent evil is so simple, we confidently expect that matters will be so arranged this year that ticket holders will be admitted into the hall as soon as they may arrive, and thus reap the benefit of the old rule, "first come, first served."

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THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

In our recent issues we were somewhat inclined to find fault with the Minister of Education for the stand which he has taken on educational matters in the past, but, on considering the subject more carefully, we have almost come to the conclusion that we owe him an apology. We must frankly confess that we expected too much of him, that we forgot to make our criticism relative to the intellectual dimensions of the man whom we were criticising. As a matter of fact, the Minister of Education is not a highly cultured man, a man of broad comprehensive ideas. He is simply an ordinary school teacher mysteriously elevated to the position which he now holds. Those who have been censuring him, in the press, during the last number of weeks, have lost sight of this fact. They have been demanding too much of him. They expected that he should be able to see eye to eye with the most advanced thinkers of the day. This is unreasonable. It is like scolding a boy because he is not a man. We believe in giving the Minister of Education fair play, and in order to do so we must judge his actions with reference to his own ideal, and not with reference to an ideal that is infinitely beyond his mental grasp, and, when he errs, we must extend to him that sympathy which is due to a man who errs through ignorance. We have no doubt he is trying to do his best to advance the educational interests of the province. Still, we must say that he has accomplished very little. It is said, on good authority, and we do not doubt it for a moment, that he was a very successful public school teacher. Well, we can only reply that it was a great pity to spoil a good teacher by making him Minister of Education, and we would strongly advise him to give up his present position and return to the humbler occupation of his youth. When he was appointed Minister of Education there was a craze among people to fill important positions with what they called "Self made men." These extraordinary creatures we understand to be men who are capable of development under the most adverse circumstances, men who would attain to intellectual greatness even suppose they were