

Provincial Examinations are for all students, for the universities and different colleges, for the estimation of the character of High School work in our various secondary educational institutions on uniform standards, as well as for admission to the teaching profession. Nearly 3000 went up for examination this year; but of these, only about 600 have applied for licenses to teach. The others are going on with more advanced work in the High Schools, Academies and Colleges; or have graduated from the High Schools with a certificate of scholarship which has a more definite meaning than the diplomas from our universities. It is not the Teachers' Examination so much as the Pupils' or Students' Examination. Teachers should aid in correcting the general use of terms which are apt to cause public misconceptions.

CHANGES UNDER CONSIDERATION.

In some countries no candidate is passed who makes less than one-third (34 per cent) on any imperative subject at state or provincial examinations, as in Ontario for instance. While it is not contemplated to raise the minimum mark of 25 for the High School "pass" examination, it has been considered, and the general principle has been approved, that for the purpose of obtaining a license to teach above that of grade D (Provisional), no imperative subject should fall below 33 on the High School Certificate. Twenty-five per cent scholarship on any imperative subject as, for instance, in English, in Arithmetic, in Drawing, etc., shows that a candidate is unfit to teach all the subjects of the public school course, while we can obtain teachers enough who stand fairly well all round. The regulations proposed do not affect the High School Certificate "pass" at all. It will merely prohibit from entering the teaching profession those who fall below 33 on any imperative subject, without attendance at the Normal School, which they can enter if they take the High School Certificate, and from which they can graduate only after specially satisfying the faculty of their proficiency in the subjects below 33 in addition to the other requirements. This proposed raising of the standard of the teachers' qualifications will be scarcely felt by the profession as a whole, perhaps not so much as that from the form outlined in the Education Report of 1896, at page xxxvii. Its effect will be beneficial in every respect, as in a few years at the present rate of increase, the number of teachers will be in excess of the demand.

OTHER POINTS.

For other points which are always coming up, teachers and trustees are referred to editorial notes and comments in the preceding JOURNALS. As they have to be kept for reference in each school, there is no need for repeating old notices which can be found in them.

As the object of these notes is to aid in removing defects of general procedure, and reforming abuses arising from negligence, lack of full information, etc., their tone cannot be expected to be laudatory. But it is enough in this line to state the fact, that there has been improvement in the policy of the trustees, in the statistical returns from sections, and in the general character of school buildings, grounds and general work, in every Inspector's district throughout the Province. But there is much work to be done yet in some sections before they attain even to the average proficiency of the Province as a whole.