

the Public Schools. So strongly, indeed, has the pressure in this direction been brought to bear upon the Council of Public Instruction, that it has reluctantly been induced to lower the standard for admission to the High Schools to a point little beyond that of the third class (out of six) prescribed for the Public Schools.

The Legislature has already made ample provision for the teaching in our Public Schools of all the elementary branches of education. To teach them (as is done in some High Schools) is a violation of law, and an interference with the legitimate province of the Public Schools. The Legislature has wisely restricted the teaching in the High Schools to the "*higher branches* of a good English and commercial education." If the Council has erred at all in this matter, it has erred in making the standard of admission to the High Schools too low instead of too high.

I trust, therefore, that each High School Board will see that in the instruction given in their school none but the subjects prescribed in the Programme shall be taught, and that no effort will be made or suffered, either to evade the wise provisions of the law, or to lower the reasonable standard of High School instruction which the Legislature itself has set up.

There is another aspect of this question to which I desire to call the attention of High School Boards. Up to 1871, it was urged with some force that, while the Legislature required the High School Boards to do certain things, it left them powerless to provide the necessary means to enable them to do so. This was doubtless true to a certain extent up to 1871, though I had sought in past years to have it otherwise. However, in 1871 the Boards of Trustees were left without any excuse on that ground. In that year, while the Legislature prescribed one or two additional subjects of instruction in the High Schools (which gave a symmetry and completeness to the course of study in them), it also provided most liberally for enabling trustees to support their schools and pay their teachers. Not only did it in that year increase the High School grant from \$57,000 to \$70,000, but it also required the County and City Councils to provide by assessment (for the first time), and to furnish the trustees with \$35,000 more—making a total High School grant from that time of \$105,000 per annum—or, on an average, \$1,000 for each High School and Collegiate Institute—besides \$750 additional for each of the Institutes.

Farther, for the first time, the Legislature authorized each High School Board to call upon the Council or Councils concerned to provide by assessment whatever additional sums it might require "for the school accommodation and maintenance" of the High School; and it made it an imperative duty of these Councils to provide these sums. It might be well, in regard to this matter, to call attention to the comparative amount of the grants made to the High and Public Schools. I have already shown that the Legislature has provided a preliminary High School fund of \$105,000, to be divided among about 105 High Schools and Collegiate Institutes, independently of the \$750 additional paid to each of the latter institutions. This sum allows of an apportionment of from \$25 to \$30 per pupil in average attendance at each High School and Collegiate Institute.

To the Public Schools the grant, including the County assessment, did not last year amount to more than 80 cents per pupil, and this year that sum will not exceed \$1 per pupil in average attendance at each public school. It may be left to the judgment of any candid man, therefore, whether it is reasonable or just to allow High Schools to do Public School work, and yet receive between twenty-five and thirty times as much as the Public Schools for doing it!

If the High Schools do any Public School work, then should the High School Fund be made a Public School Fund, and be equitably distributed among all the Public Schools. If there is no High School work in a neighbourhood, then there should be no High School there. Every true friend of High School education is, therefore, concerned to see that no abuse shall be practised upon the High School Fund, and that it shall be faithfully employed in the legitimate work prescribed to High Schools by law.

It will be seen, by the authorized regulations, as well as by the provisions of the law, that the local boards of examiners must see that the uniform standard for the admission of pupils to the High Schools must be observed; that these regulations apply to all pupils admitted to the High Schools since August, 1872; and that the Inspectors are to see that these regulations are duly observed.

No branch of our System of Public Instruction has thus far been comparatively so defective and inefficient as that of the High Schools—the intermediate branch between the Public Schools and the University, and between the Public Schools and the manufacturing and commercial employments of life. I trust the exertions of your Board will tend to promote this important branch of the proper education of a people, and to make the High Schools as honourable to the country, and as much and as generally prized as are the Public Schools.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your very faithful servant,
E. RYERSON.

Education Department,
Toronto, 2nd July, 1873.

CIRCULAR TO THE INSPECTORS OF HIGH SCHOOLS.

GENTLEMEN,—The inspection of High Schools and Collegiate Institutes having now become a settled organized system, I have submitted to the Council of Public Instruction, in a condensed form, the various regulations and instructions under which that inspection has hitherto been conducted. The Council has also added a few additional regulations which have been rendered necessary in consequence of the additional duty which now devolves on the High School Inspectors, provision having been made by the Legislature for increasing their number for the purpose of visiting and reporting upon the Public and Separate Schools in those places where High Schools are situated. These Regulations have been incorporated in the General Regulations for the government of our High Schools and Collegiate Institutes, and have received the sanction of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. They will go into effect on the reassembling of the High Schools after the Midsummer vacation.

In order to give a definiteness and uniformity to the inspection and examination of each High, as well as Public and Separate School which you may visit, I have had prepared, as authorized by the Regulations, certain forms of report which will be found useful and suggestive in carrying on the inspection of these various schools. These reports, as before, will be confidential, and I trust they will be fully and carefully filled up, and that the report of the inspection of each school will be transmitted to this Department without delay, as you proceed from county to county, or from school to school. When the report of the inspection of each school is transmitted separately, as requested, I shall be able to examine it carefully, and learn what is being done in the schools, as well as in the inspection of them; which I cannot do when the reports of the whole half year's inspection are sent in at once.

I hope that the efficiency of the High Schools and Collegiate Institutes will be greatly advanced by the revised Programme and Regulations, as well as by the improved system of inspection.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

E. RYERSON.

Education Department,
Toronto, 2nd July, 1873.