

THE ONTARIO TEACHER:

A MONTHLY EDUCATIONAL JOURNAL.

Vol. 2.

DECEMBER, 1874.

No. 12

A CENTRAL BOARD.

We notice that an agitation is commencing for the abolition of the County Boards of Examiners, with a view to substitute for them a Central Board by which the work of Candidates for every grade of certificates would be examined. The arguments advanced for the change are, *uniformity of valuation, fairness, and cheapness*. We are quite well aware that so far as uniformity of valuation is concerned, the present County Board does not fully meet our views. Notwithstanding the fact, that the questions sent out by the Central Committee are uniformly valued, and that every County in the Province receives the same questions, yet among so many Boards there must be a great variety of opinions regarding the value of the work done. It is certainly beyond question that certificates may be more easily obtained in one County than another, not from any *lack* of judgment on the part of Examiners, but from a *variety* of judgment. What one might regard as a *full* answer may, (and sometimes with a fair shew of justice) be regarded by another as a defective answer, and thus

practically we will have as many grades of certificates as we have Boards of Examiners. With a fair and impartial Central Board no such variation could take place. Allot to each examiner a special subject, let him examine all the papers in that subject, and there is no doubt the greatest possible degree of uniformity attainable would be secured.

Impartiality. It is alleged that under the present system there is some danger that the Inspector who is *ex-officio* a member of the Board, will have his favorite and from considerations purely personal, grant "better terms" to one candidate than another. While not disclaiming the possibility of such an *evil* existing, we hope it is beyond the region of *probability*. Even with a Central Board such a grievance might exist, although materially circumscribed in its effects. So far, we have heard of no grievance from this quarter. It was certainly said to be a grievance, when Normal School Teachers were the examiners of their own students, and it is not impossible to be a grievance under the present system. We find