

Memorandum

Submitted to the Trustees of Queen's University

on the

Professional Training of Teachers.



Dr. Pyne, the Minister of Education, in the concluding section of his report for 1904, writes (p. xiv): "Perhaps it will be as well for me to mention at present only one question, the importance of which has been clearly brought before me. This question—a far reaching one—is that of elevating the status of the teacher and thus making educational effort more effective in every school, college and university in the land."

Since that report was written the following resolution was unanimously passed at a union meeting of over 300 teachers, from six counties, in Ottawa last May:

"The present system of training the teachers of Ontario in three distinct and unrelated institutions—Model schools, Normal schools and Normal college—is too ineffective, without parallel in the case of other professions, and in good part accountable for low salaries and arrested development in the ranks of our teachers. The interests of our schools require a Teachers' college in Eastern Ontario, in university affiliation, where all grades of teachers may receive their professional training in association with academic preparation for the B.A. degree."

Toronto University, sympathizing in some measure with the views which were afterwards expressed in this resolution, has asked the Ontario Government to establish a chair of pedagogy in the University. The question of re-organizing the professional training of teachers is thus a live one, and also is of direct concern to the Trustees of Queen's. Let us seek to prove those two points.