

confer upon any High School in which not less than four masters are fully engaged in teaching the subjects of the prescribed curriculum, and in which the daily average of male pupils studying the Latin or Greek language shall not be less than sixty, the name Collegiate Institute; and towards the support of such Collegiate Institute it shall be lawful for the Lieutenant-Governor in Council to authorize the payment of an additional sum, at the rate of, and not exceeding seven hundred and fifty dollars per annum out of the Superior Education Fund; provided that if in any year the average of pupils above described shall fall below sixty, or the number of masters be less than four, the additional grant shall cease for that year; and if the said average shall continue to be less than sixty, or the number of masters less than four for two successive years, the institution shall forfeit the name and privileges of a Collegiate Institute until restored by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, under the conditions provided by this section."

I go heartily along with the framer of the Act in desiring the establishment of superior classical schools. A few schools of the type of Upper Canada College might, with great propriety, be planted in different parts of the Province, not perhaps immediately, but with a wise regard to circumstances. I cannot say, however, that I look with favour on the proposed Collegiate Institute. A year ago, on the invitation of the Grammar School Masters' Association, I stated to that Association my objections to the Institutes: I stated the same objections when called to give evidence before a Committee of the Provincial Parliament: and, as my views remain unchanged, I will now state them to you. Whether I am right or wrong, no harm can arise from having the subject ventilated. In the first place, then, I dislike the proposed Collegiate Institutes because of the character of instability which must necessarily attach to them. The Act provides, as we have seen, that if in any year the average of male pupils fall below sixty, or the number of masters be less than four, the additional grant shall cease for that year; and if the said average shall continue to be less than sixty, or the number of masters less than four for two successive years, the institution shall forfeit the name and privileges of a Collegiate Institute. Thus, a school may this year be a Collegiate Institute, with the pecuniary advantages, such as they are, which that dignity brings along with it; but next year it may lose all special pecuniary advantage, and, the year following, the extinguisher may descend upon it, and out it goes—as a Collegiate Institute. I cannot persuade myself that it is desirable that the institutions intended to be the great centres, where boys preparing for a University are to be fitted for matriculation, should be established under such conditions of uncertainty. In the second place, the Collegiate Institutes are to be developed out of the ordinary High Schools; and this, I believe, is considered by some persons whose judgment is entitled to great respect, a recommendation of the system; but I look upon it as an objection, because it entails the consequence that the institutes may be established in any locality where a High School exists. I cannot