

Superintendent, and that for all practical purposes, where you find the words, "provided by law," or "according to law," or "Council of Public Instruction," you may insert the words, "Chief Superintendent." This programme and regulations of the Council would supersede the certificates of the County Boards. These certificates are revokable by the boards which granted them; and has not the hon. gentleman sufficient confidence in the county boards to trust to them to revoke a teacher's certificate if he becomes unworthy of his office? No—he insists that another power shall supersede these certificates; *and I say that is practically placing in the hands of the Chief Superintendent of Education every Common School teacher of the four or five thousand who hold their certificates from the county boards, to be dealt with at his pleasure.* A programme and regulations are to be issued, and then the whole body of teachers, to whom this country is so largely indebted, will be placed in the power of one man—the Chief Superintendent. I quite demur to that. I agree that we ought to see that the teachers chosen are efficient; and if the hon. gentleman is prepared to say that the teachers throughout the country at the present time do not possess proper qualifications for their position, let him say so plainly, and show that it is necessary in the public interest that they should better their attainments, and pass another examination before they shall be permitted to continue in their positions. And let us be told also that that fact having come to the knowledge of the head of the Education Office, and he having communicated the fact to the county boards, the county boards have refused to do their duty, so that the existing law under which we have carried out, as far as may be, our great principle of self-government, has been fairly tried, and has been found ineffective, before he asks us to consent to the destruction of the acquired status of teachers, and to resort to centralization, so alien to our institutions and habits—things not to be borne unless some great public good shall require the sacrifice. I think that the compulsory provision for a superannuation fund is unfair, not founded on correct notions of political economy, and not calculated to benefit the teachers as a body, or to advance the general good. I pass for the moment from the question of Common Schools with this observation, that there are several other clauses to which my attention has been directed, and which I think more or less grave, and deserving of attention, but which are perhaps more fitted for discussion when the House is in committee of the whole on the measure. I shall therefore refer but slightly to some of them, and reserve for a future occasion my remarks as to others.

I turn now to the subject of Grammar Schools. I wish to say a word