

for first, are to be prepared by the Council of Public Instruction, through a committee of their appointment or otherwise ; so that candidates for second and third-class certificates, though presenting themselves before different Boards, shall still have the same papers to answer. Moreover, by a regulation of the Council of Public Instruction, the value of the several questions in the examination papers must be fixed by the Committee of Council ; the effect of which is, that all candidates for certificates of a particular class, who give correct answers to the questions in the examination papers, must receive the same number of marks for the answers, by whatever Board they may be examined.

It is perhaps not possible, in the meantime to go farther than this, in the way of securing uniformity in the examination and classification of Public School teachers. Of course, even where examination papers are the same, and the values affixed to the several questions are also the same, there may still be a serious want of uniformity in the examinations, in consequence of the different estimates which different examiners make of imperfect answers. In estimating imperfect answers, some of the County Boards, which have to decide the fate of applicants for second and third-class certificates, will be much more severe than others, and thus the ideal of absolute uniformity in the examination and classification of teachers will not by any means be attained. I was at one time disposed to think that County Boards of Examiners might be dispensed with, and certificates of all classes, first, second and third, granted by one examining body. This would secure uniformity, as far as such a theory is possible ; it would probably not involve much more expense than is entailed by the present system, and it would be objected to on the ground of centralization by those only who allow their ears to be filled with a popular cry, and do not consider that centralization, which separates examiners from local partialities and suggestions, is, in such a matter, the very thing to be desired. But, after what I have learned of the number of applicants likely to come forward from year to year for second and third-class certificates, I do not see how a single small committee could overtake the work of reading all the papers that would be given in. I acquiesce, therefore, in the method of examining and classifying teachers now prescribed by law, as perhaps the best attainable in present circumstances.

The examining committee, appointed by the Council of Public Instruction, consists of a member of the Council, who is chairman of the Committee ; and of the two High School Inspectors. Besides a special examination for certificates of qualification for the office of Public School Inspector, the committee has recently had to conduct, with the assistance of the Normal School Masters, the examination of both divisions of the Normal School, and it is at present engaged with the general examination of candidates for first-class certificates throughout the Province. In this general examination the Normal School Masters take no part. Though, as a member of the Council, I accepted these arrangements as suitable to the transition year through