

perhaps the most important question of the day in connection with our schools. Mr. Hewton's plea for the enlargement of the powers of the Central Board of Examiners, and his further plea for an improved and extended system of training for teachers in our Normal School, not only indicated some serious defects in our system, but will lead us, it is to be hoped, eventually to find some remedy for these defects. We expect to be able to give a full report of Mr. Hewton's arguments in a subsequent issue.

Mr. J. S. Tomkins, of Granby, followed Mr. Hewton with a paper on "The best means of Improving the Efficiency of our Elementary Schools." He also took occasion to point out the deficiencies in the management, pecuniary support and inspection of these schools, not so much evidently with the desire of finding fault as to suggest a remedy. The paper was well received and will, no doubt, be placed at our disposal for publication.

Mr. John Whyte, of Megantic, followed Mr. Tomkins on the same subject in a very pleasant address, in which he classified the people against whom the School Commissioners had generally to contend in the country districts. These, he said, included (1) those who did not believe in school education, (2) the property owners who had no children to send to school, many of whom believed that paying money for school purposes was extortion, and (3) the absentee property holder who abhorred all taxes. In fighting against these three classes the zealous School Commissioner often officially comes to grief, being left out in the cold when the time of election comes round. Then the dual character of our school system is another defect which, like the other, seems to be insurmountable. Two schools in one district where one was often more than enough, not unfrequently resulted in neither of them being good for much. Mr. Whyte also entered a plea in favour of a limited course of training in our Normal School for our elementary teachers. He thought that the arranging for a three months' course in the Normal School would do a great deal towards improving our schools. Teachers, he said, generally know enough, but do not know how to impart their knowledge to others in a right way.

Sir William Dawson, having been invited to address the Convention at the close of Mr. Whyte's excellent and practical remarks, referred in fitting terms to the progress education was evidently making in the Province of Quebec.

The Rev. Mr. Taylor, Inspector of schools, in following up the discussion of the questions touched upon by Messrs. Tomkins