

The lessons are given Monday afternoon from 1.30 to 2.30. Two lessons of half an hour each, in each building.

The subjects consist chiefly of Old Testament history, books of the Bible, moral duties.

The pupils generally shew a lamentable ignorance of Bible facts. There has been no objection on the part of parents.

SUPPORT FOR COLLEGE OF PRECEPTORS.

WE are pleased to see that this new departure in the organization of teachers is finding support both in England and the United States of America. In England a petition is being signed by graduates and others interested in education and the condition of teachers, with the intention of sending it to Sir Lyon Playfair, M.P., with the request that he will use his influence to have some measure passed for the enrollment of teachers. We have no doubt the honourable gentleman will only be too willing to attend to this request, as a few years ago he endeavoured to do the same of his own motion. Here in America, we have the Hon. Mr. Draper, Chief Superintendent of Education for the State of New York, advising the formation of a council representative of all interests in the State, and appointed by the Governor, to aid by suggestion, advice, etc., how properly to spend the money placed at the disposal of the Education Department. Thus, two of the leading features of the College of Preceptors for Ontario are finding favour in the educational world. And no doubt the third one—the relation of the enrolled body to the Government of the day—will soon be successfully grappled with in all English-speaking communities. The sooner the better, for the Government will ultimately have to accept

one of two alternatives. It must make teachers civil servants, as is now being done in Germany, or put the teaching profession on the same footing as the other professions—relinquishing all interference with the law of supply and demand. At present teachers are in a most unnatural position, which cannot continue. As soon as they combine and demand to be treated as lawyers and doctors are treated on the one hand, or as Inland Revenue officers on the other, the present paternal, and more unjust than paternal, system must give way. Under the first order of things, the State would have to depend on the attractions of the profession to secure a sufficient supply of efficient men and women to take charge of the schools. One thing is certain, most if not all the grievances of which our teachers now complain would disappear. Under the other alternative, teachers would willingly accept smaller remuneration, because of the security of tenure, pensions, and other advantages they would obtain as civil servants. At present they have the advantages of neither position. They are as much controlled by the Department as though they were in the service of the Crown, but hold their appointments at the will of one man, or by a body of men not controlled by the Minister. As to their salaries, these also are managed by the Department, *i.e.*, by the Minister of Education or some one for him, who, if a sufficient supply of cheap teachers cannot be obtained, have only to lower the standard or grant permits, to secure as large a supply as may be wished. The truth is the teachers of the country are heavily handicapped. It were well, if they either had only to bargain with the public or bargain with the Government. Their position is as intolerable as it is unnatural, and so long as the present system is maintained, so long must general discontent exist.