

Then, as to the standard of admission. In the case of pupils intended for the classical course, the standard ought to be not lower than that at present enforced; for the non-classical pupils the standard should be such as not to interfere with Common Schools of average efficiency.

#### NECESSITY FOR INCREASED INSPECTION.

Lastly, as to the mode of conducting the examination for admission. The proposed transfer of this examination to the County Superintendent, within whose county or half-county the Grammar School may be situated, is open to the very grave objection that there would no longer exist any uniformity in the standard of admission. The test applied would theoretically be uniform, but each one of the forty-two or more County Superintendents would certainly interpret the requirements of the standard according to his own peculiar ideas, precisely as at present. Although the printed standard for County Board Certificates is identical everywhere throughout Ontario, the examination papers professing to be based on that standard are notoriously and grossly unequal in their requirements. The system of admission at present in force has done much for the elevation of the Grammar Schools. It moreover gives the utmost uniformity of procedure, and so affords a valuable basis of comparison. This latter is all the more important, because under the system, both present and proposed, the public money is apportioned on the basis of inspected pupils. The objection against the continuance of the present system appears to be that this entrance examination occupies too much of the Inspector's time. Here, however, the objection seems to be altogether falsely taken—the alleged inconvenience is due not to the system itself, but to the insufficient machinery provided for its administration. The energies of the present efficient Inspector are greatly over-taxed in attempting to accomplish work which would certainly occupy the whole time of two Inspectors.

#### THE CURRICULUM OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

The curriculum of the Grammar Schools must evidently be made to harmonize more completely than it does at present with the two-fold class of duties fulfilled by those institutions. Much of the master's time is at present unprofitably consumed on conflicting programmes of study. It would be a measure of the utmost importance if the subjects of all other public examinations coincided with the subject prescribed for junior Matriculation in the University of Toronto, or were drawn exclusively from among those subjects; and if on the other hand the junior Matriculation of the University were so enlarged by a system of options as to embrace the requirements of the two great classes of pupils described above as attending the Grammar Schools. By thus enabling the masters to concentrate their energies, a more thoroughly-trained class of youth would leave the Grammar Schools for the University, for the Professions and for the various industrial occupations.

#### THE HIGH SCHOOL SCHEME.

The proposed scheme for the conversion of the Grammar Schools into High Schools is based on the substitution of Physical Science and the Higher English for the Ancient Classics. As a necessary complement to the scheme, and in order to prevent the study of the Classics, henceforth optional, from falling into neglect, the establishment of Collegiate Institutes has been provided for. There are two dangers connected with this scheme to be apprehended and to be avoided. 1. The unnecessary increase in the number of High Schools, which must degrade the Common Schools, and exhaust the fund available for the maintenance of already-existing High Schools. 2. The dangerous possibility of setting up Collegiate Institutes on too slender a maintenance, as was proposed in the late High School Bill, and so entailing on the Institutes from their very inception, a career of difficulty and disaster. The present Grammar School Fund is of course much too limited to yield the additional grants demanded by this new class of institutions.

#### FINANCIAL ASPECT OF THE QUESTION.

The financial aspect of the question is by far the most important, and it has hitherto, in our judgment, received insufficient attention. In the bill submitted to the Legislature at its last Session we are unable to discover any new means provided for the support of grammar Schools. All the machinery professedly supplied by the new bill is quite accessible, as the law now stands, to the trustees of Union Schools. The bill would merely have the effect of forcing a union where such a measure is at present regarded as unnecessary, and where it will doubtless be distasteful. The strong tendency moreover of the late bill was to throw the burden of supporting the grammar schools on the already over-taxed local municipalities. The County Councils, on the other hand, which as a class rank among the wealthiest of our municipal corporations, and which contribute towards educational funds a sum at present very trifling

in amount, and annually decreasing relatively to the increasing wealth of the country—these wealthy and slightly-taxed municipalities were practically relieved from contributing. Nothing could be more unjust to the grammar school trustees of towns and villages than to make the county grant dependent on the county attendance. This attendance is, from the distance to be travelled, from the exigencies of agricultural operations, from epidemics actual or rumoured, and from many other causes, extremely fluctuating in its character, and equally fluctuating would be of course any grant based on such attendance. The Trustees, when engaging a staff of masters, have to provide for the adequate instruction of this influx of country pupils, and it is quite evident that, with every oscillation in the attendance of such pupils, the salaries of masters cannot be made to beat in unison. The expense entailed on the Trustees is certain, while the means of meeting that expense, as provided by the late Bill, is to the last degree uncertain. There is no subject on which Grammar School Trustees and Grammar School masters are so unanimous, as the necessity of compelling County Councils to furnish, for the support of such Grammar Schools as shall hereafter continue to be maintained within their respective counties, a sum at least equal to one-half of the Government grant.

#### ELECTION OF TRUSTEES.

The County Councils, on being thus compelled to contribute towards the maintenance of the Grammar Schools, ought to continue to enjoy their present representation in the Trustee Boards. This power of nomination is, we believe, in the great majority of cases very judiciously exercised by those municipalities. If any change in the appointment of Trustees were made, we incline to the opinion that the change ought rather to proceed in the direction of *nominated*, as opposed to *elective* Trustees.

#### PRINCE EDWARD TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

MR. EDITOR,—Presuming that a brief sketch of the last very successful meeting of our Association will be interesting to your readers, I offer no other apology for the present demand on your valuable space.

Our County Association was re-organized upwards of a year ago and has held three semi-annual meetings of increasing interest. The last took place on Thursday and Friday, 25th and 29th July. Having the honor of being President, as well as County Superintendent of Schools, I forwarded to nearly every teacher in the county, a programme of the subjects to be discussed at the convention. In the preparation of this programme I was assisted by the Executive Committee.

On the first day of meeting I was agreeably surprised to see a full attendance from the opening. Many came long distances, and at considerable sacrifice. The first subject, "A Proper Pronunciation," was introduced in an excellent essay, and earnestly discussed. "Vocal music, and its place in schools," occupied the time of the convention during the remainder of the forenoon, and brought out some good ideas. In the afternoon, after the annual election of officers, the attention of the meeting was given to the following: "How to teach Modulation and Emphasis in Reading," "Reduction and Fractions," and "Grammar without text books." These practical questions were very thoroughly handled by the gentlemen appointed.

In the evening, a very interesting public meeting was held in the Town Hall, Picton, and was well attended. The exercises consisted of an "Essay on English History," a debate on the "Benefits of the Prize System," and an Address on the "Responsibilities of the Teacher," by Rev. N. A. Willoughby, M.A., to which we may add, music by the Picton Quartette Club.

On Friday forenoon the subjects taken up were, "A days work in the school for Teacher and Pupil," "How to secure proper Order," and "Claims of Physical Science as a Branch of Study." In the afternoon, "A Proper Course of Study," and "The Mutual Relations of Teacher, Master and Parents" were ably discussed. Indeed very great interest was manifested during the entire proceedings. Upwards of fifty teachers were in attendance during the greater part of the time. Several visitors were also present; among others, Wm. Anderson, M.P.P., who was elected an honorary member of the Association, and who, in return for the compliment, expressed his thanks and stated his desire to do whatever he could to aid the teacher in his noble work, and to advance the interests of education generally.

During the transaction of general business, a resolution was passed that a collection be taken up in each school in the County for the purpose of procuring a Magic Lantern to give evening exhibitions during the approaching Fall and Winter.