

to be hoped that the work of consolidation will be proceeded with as rapidly as possible in the interest of all who have anything to do with school matters. To trustees, especially, is the early completion of the work an absolute necessity. They are constantly dealing with business details covered by the new amendments, and as it is always difficult for men whose time is largely taken up with other matters to cultivate a sufficient acquaintance with the law they have to obey, the work of simplification cannot be commenced a moment too soon or carried any too far.

As a matter of course the various School Acts will be consolidated with a view to their insertion in the General Consolidated Statutes of the Province. It is intended also, we believe, to issue the various classes of statutes in separate parts, and of course the School Law will be so published. We would respectfully urge upon the attention of the Minister of Education, however, the necessity of issuing along with the Act all the Regulations passed under its authority which are at present in force. Many old Regulations have been repealed or superseded as new ones conflicting with them have been adopted, and it is a difficult matter for either teachers or trustees to separate the living from the dead law for themselves. Let the Regulations be consolidated and published in the same volume with the Act, and with the addition of reports of School cases decided in the courts, many of which are of quite as much importance as any part of the law. In this way a manual may be obtained which will put it in the power of every official of average intelligence to tell with all but unerring certainty what his duty at any particular juncture really is.

Of the changes made in the law by the Act of last session we cannot here speak at length. One of the most important and far-reaching is the alteration in the mode of examining and training teachers which it contemplates. Henceforth all candidates for Provincial certificates, second class as well as first, will be examined directly by the Central Committee, while steps are to be taken to utilize the Provincial Normal Schools for training purposes only, and to establish county training schools for the use of third-class candidates. The work of scholastic preparation will in this way be thrown very much on the High Schools and the advanced classes in Public Schools, both of which will be all the better for having to undertake it. The utilization of the intermediate High School examination in connection with the examination for second and third class candidates is also a step in the right direction, since it simplifies the whole system and imparts a value to the intermediate which it did not formerly possess. If it were possible to raise the intermediate standard high enough the matter would become still more simple, but at present the scheme adopted by the Central Committee and noticed elsewhere, is as much as can be accomplished. It is worthy of note, in this connection, that the clause of the new Act which empowers the Education Department to declare the equivalents for the High School examinations in the examination of Public School teachers, also gives it authority to arrange with learned societies, such as universities, the Law Society, the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and the like, "for similar subjects in certain examinations and for reciprocally accepting such exam-

inations." We should like very much to see an effort made by the Department to induce the Law Society and the Medical Council to accept the intermediate in lieu of the whole or a part of their own matriculation examinations. If such an arrangement could be effected a great boon would be conferred on High Schools and High School Masters all over the Province. We are glad to notice that Victoria University has moved in this matter of its own accord, and has accepted the results of the intermediate at a fair valuation. The step is one which the authorities of Victoria will have no cause to regret, and which other universities will soon be compelled to take if they do not wish to see her halls peopled with students at their expense.

THE ONTARIO TEACHERS' CONVENTION.

The annual meeting of the "Ontario Association for the advancement of Education" will be held during the third week of August, commencing on Tuesday in the theatre of the Normal School, Toronto. As its name indicates all friends of education may become members and take part in its deliberations. The great object of the association is not so much to discuss methods of teaching, as to consider the most important questions connected with the general educational institutions of the province. The relations of Public to High Schools, the programme of study in them, teacher training, teachers' certificates and how to grant them, methods for securing better attendance in schools, municipal school administration, school ventilation: these and many other questions of a similar nature are taken up, and carefully considered. In fact the details as well as the general principles of the educational system, especially the new features introduced into it, are discussed with a view of making suggestions as to its more efficient or more equitable working. The association has not a standing which gives its decisions any legal force, but care is always taken to lay the results of its deliberations before the Minister of Education. These results are valuable as they contain the views of the leading members of the great body of practical educators on the vital educational questions of the day. It has been urged by many, that there should be more attention paid by the association to institute work; that more good would result from explanations and illustrations of the principles of teaching, than from the discussion of questions of administration. It is of the utmost importance not only that all teachers of every grade who are coming into this profession, should be carefully trained; but that all those who are already engaged in teaching should be kept thoroughly alive to the progress which is being made in connection with their work. The former work will in future be effectively carried on by the Normal Schools and County Model Schools; the latter must be accomplished by local associations with the assistance, it is to be hoped, of regular county institutes conducted under the authority of the Education Department. The provincial convention can not fully accomplish this work. Only a small number comparatively can attend it, and they, as a rule, are those who least need to take part in institute work. Methods of teaching are not entirely overlooked, however. They are