

## QUEBEC'S SCHOOL STANDARDS COMPARED WITH ONTARIO'S.

Dr. Stephen Leacock started something when he criticized the secondary schools of Quebec in an address to the association of Protestant teachers of that province. He is strongly in favor of lengthening the curriculum in those schools by one year as the standard is too low. One reason for his advocating this change is that the standard in his province is far behind that in Ontario. Every one of the collegiate institutes in Ontario, and every class entering the University of Toronto has a higher rating than the corresponding institutions in Quebec and the classes entering McGill. The practice formerly a voluntary one and now enforced by law, of taking the additional year for honor matriculation before entering the uni-

versity gives the Ontario-Toronto University student body an advantage which the Quebec-McGill student body can never overcome.

"It is a strange thing that that simple fact should remain unknown," Dr. Leacock said, referring to McGill's relatively low standard. "I have often and passionately told it to my colleagues only to have it rejected with contempt or indignation." Comparing the standards of entrance at McGill and Toronto, he stated that McGill's first year Latin and third year Greek and mathematics are equivalent to Toronto's entrance requirements.

We can understand and we sympathize with the explanation of Dr. George Parmalee, former director of Protestant education in Quebec, namely, that Quebec's standard is lower than Ontario's because there, so much time is devoted to French. A thorough knowledge of French is undoubtedly of great advantage to the young English-speaking people of Quebec and, indeed, of any other part of Canada. Dr. Leacock retorted that this did not alter the fact that the standard of English, arithmetic and history is poorer. Being a graduate of the University of Toronto, teacher at Upper Canada College, professor for many years at McGill, and, altogether, having an experience of 42 years in teaching, Prof. Leacock is qualified to express an opinion on the comparative merits of the two systems.