

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

LAST summer's agitation has done some good. The principle of "Rotation of Examiners" has been conceded by the Minister, but it may be that he will offer us a stone for bread. Rumour has it that the three High School Inspectors are to be retained on the Committee. To Messrs. Buchan and Marling no objection can be offered. They have shewn themselves to be capable examiners, and their papers have, on the whole, been such as have suited the capabilities of our schools; but to retain the book-peddling senior Inspector would be little short of an outrage. The Public School element in the Committee, too, has been, comparatively speaking, inoffensive. When Mr. Glashan has had a chance to air his crotchets, the result has not, we admit, been conducive to the interests of education, but even this examiner's eccentricities would be endurable. Nothing, however, can palliate Dr. McLellan's conduct. At the Scandal investigation it was proved, on his own admission, that he had "asked a few of his friends to further the sale of his books." It is very improbable that he has changed his tactics since then. The signs of the times, however, point to the decay of his influence in educational circles. We have already referred to a gratifying proof of this, and we only regret that it has been so long in shewing itself.

UPPER CANADA COLLEGE.

To the Honourable the Legislature of the Province of Ontario.

The Petition of the undersigned High School Trustees and Teachers

HUMBLY SHEWETH:—

Whereas the work of Secondary Education in Ontario has, during the past few years, assumed an importance and created an interest, both local and general, not felt hitherto; and whereas, the work actually accomplished in our High Schools is proportionately increased—involving corresponding outlay in providing accommodations, furnishing and equipping our schools with the additional apparatus, furniture, and teachers rendered necessary—the amount received from Government should be proportionately increased.

We would refer, in general, to the comparatively high standard of our curriculum; and, particularly, to the increase of labour and expense entailed by reason of the Intermediate Examination, to the preparation of

First and Second Class Teachers in non-professional work, formerly obtained at the Normal School; besides the additional work in connection with Third Class Teachers, formerly shared by Public Schools, but now likely to fall almost entirely on High Schools.

Your petitioners beg leave to suggest, moreover, that a justifiable means of securing the increased aid asked for may readily be found in the large endowment now enjoyed by Upper Canada College, one of the Secondary Schools of Ontario.

That it is nothing more than a High School, with facilities for boarding and lodging provided, is clearly manifest from a comparison of its curriculum, its staff of teachers, and the results of their work, with the curriculum, teachers, and results of work in our best High Schools and Collegiate Institutes.

While we admit that prior to the establishment of our High Schools on their present basis, and before they attained their present proud position, there was some plausibility in perpetuating this institution,—we claim that it is no longer necessary,—the instruction which it was intended to supply being now supplied in our High Schools, many of which are doing better work and proportionately more work than U. C. C. We arrive at this conclusion from an examination of the work done by way of preparing students for University matriculation, and for other important examinations, and also from the position taken by such students as regards honors, scholarships, and prizes.

We beg to call your attention, further, to the fact that the endowment in question is from funds originally appropriated to Grammar School purposes.

The benefits, moreover, were to be enjoyed by the entire Province; whereas, we learn from official returns that nearly all the pupils of U. C. C. are from Toronto and vicinity.

The enormous cost per pupil is also in striking contrast to the average cost per pupil at our Institutes and High Schools.

From these and similar considerations, we respectfully urge upon your honourable Body the duty of restoring this endowment to the purpose originally intended, and of adding it to the amount now granted to High Schools and Collegiate Institutes.

And that the fund may not be diverted from the object for which it was originally set apart, we further suggest that its appropriation be directed by special regulation in such a manner as shall promote the best forms of Secondary Education attainable in our High School system.

And, as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.