

local discretion, guarded by a proper conscience clause, and let the Church, the Sunday School, and, above all, the home, do their proper work. The "Cotter's Saturday Night" is worth all the compulsory clauses in the world. The London *Advertiser* suggests that a manual of the great moral truths might be framed and used as a school-book. It might be framed by a neutral authority commanding the general confidence of the Province; but if the task were undertaken by the Education Office of a Party Government, we see what the result would be. The adoption of a law making religion a part of the programme would shut out for ever the hope of giving unity to our system by the abolition of Separate Schools. Otherwise, that object may be kept in view. To perfect securities for the conscience of their children the Catholics, in common with other citizens, have a right; these there might have been a reasonable doubt of their enjoying at the time when the Separate Schools were conceded, and when the memory of persecution was still fresh; there can be no reasonable doubt now; and it is not the duty of the State to provide special institutions for the purpose of keeping a portion of its citizens under the social and political control of the priesthood of a particular Church.—*The By-stander.*

PUBLIC SCHOOL INSPECTORS' CONVENTION.

SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS TO THE SCHOOL LAW.

At a meeting of Public School Inspectors of Eastern Ontario, held at Kingston on December 28th, and convened chiefly by the efforts of the Inspector of North Hastings, two important resolutions were carried unanimously, and have, we believe, the support of every County School Inspector in the eastern section of the Province. The resolutions are as follows:—

1. "Whereas in certain counties there is a great scarcity of regularly qualified teachers, be it resolved that, in the opinion of this meeting, the Boards of Examiners for such counties should, on obtaining the special permission of the Minister of Education, be authorized to grant certificates of lower grade than the present third-class certificates; that the standard for such certificates be similar to that of the third-class examination prior to 1877; that there be no restriction on Boards as to the percentage required from candidates; that, where considered

necessary, provision be made for the professional training of successful candidates by teachers' institutes, or otherwise, and that such certificates be valid only for particular sections."

2. "Whereas there is a great and growing scarcity of Public School teachers, due in a great degree to the inadequate salaries paid to them, and whereas the Legislative Grant to the public schools averages only about fifty cents per enrolled pupil, while that to High Schools averages \$6.42 per pupil, or above thirteen times as much as to the public schools, although the latter do vastly more important work; and whereas the present Legislative and Municipal Grants are inefficient, and their mode of distribution on a basis of average attendance unjust to the weaker sections, therefore be it resolved that, in the opinion of this meeting, it is expedient that the Legislature increase the appropriation to public schools by at least 100 per cent., an equal amount to be contributed by the municipalities, and that this additional (legislative and municipal) appropriation be divided among the school sections on the basis of their respective rates of taxation for the payment of teachers' salaries."

The Inspectors present at the meeting have, at their own expense, instructed their secretary to forward printed copies of these resolutions to every member of the Provincial Legislature and to every public school inspector, and have authorized a committee, composed of Messrs. Burrows, Johnston, and Mackintosh, to urge their adoption upon the Minister of Education.

We need not say that we regard this movement as very important and worthy of the earnest support of every one. In favour of the first resolution, no argument is required. Our present standard is too high for many sections of the Province, and, if persisted in, will flood the country with a multitude of half-educated and untrained holders of "permits." The increase of "permits" and extended third class certificates is productive of much mischief and demoralization. It leads to any amount of wirepulling and log-rolling, has a tendency to cultivate, on the part of teachers, neglect of study and self-improvement, and a lamentable lack of manly and womanly independence, and offers to wealthy and foolishly economical sections admirable facilities for