

cation or veto of every regulation and ordinance of the Council, and of every nomination of the Chief Superintendent to a subordinate office.

It will thus be seen, that while political interference will be reduced to a minimum by this scheme, the rights of the Government and of the Legislature are in every way protected; and that at the same time, there will be

that representation of education interests in the discussion and framing of the regulations by which executive authority must supplement legislative enactment, for the lack of which during the past ten or twelve years, not only in the present *régime* but in the previous one, educational administration, while much of it has been commendable, has been so unsatisfactory to every one concerned.

NATURAL SCIENCE AT MATRICULATION.*

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I REGRET that the treatment of this subject has not fallen to the lot of some one more competent to deal with it; but I feel so strongly that something can and should be done in the direction indicated by the heading of this paper that, when asked to introduce a discussion on the matter, I did not clearly see my way to decline. My own views in this connection can be stated in a few words, and I shall not pretend to do more than throw out a suggestion or two, which I hope, however, may lead to an expression of opinion on the part of the members present tending to some practical result.

I believe that the members of this section are keenly alive to the wonderful activity in scientific matters which is so characteristic of the time in which we live, and that any words tending to impress upon them the importance of Science as an instrument of mental culture would be superfluous. I shall therefore at once assume that we are agreed upon these points, and that we are prepared to unite for the furtherance of any practicable scheme having for its object the more efficient training of Canadian youth in the elements of Natural Science.

It must, I am sure, be a source of gratification to us—to all who have at heart the interests of intellectual progress in Canada—to observe the efforts of our universities to keep abreast of the times in science-teaching. Not only Toronto and McGill, but Queen's and Victoria, are equipping their laboratories with the latest appliances, and engaging the services of instructors fresh from the centres of scientific culture in Europe; and it must be additionally gratifying to us as Canadians, that it has been found possible, whilst sacrificing nothing in the way of qualification, to secure for some of these science chairs men who are of ourselves. It is not too much to say that a student at any one of these colleges has now almost as many advantages as he could expect to find anywhere, and that there are now turned out, year by year, numbers of men very well qualified in regard to attainments and knowledge of right methods, to impart scientific instruction of the most valuable kind. But I believe it will be admitted that many—perhaps the majority—of our graduates in Science have hitherto found but little scope for the exercise of their special talent; in the way, at all events, of awakening in others an interest in the subjects which have occupied their special at-

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