

a second-class professional certificate. Two useful ends would be accomplished by this : —the number of second-class teachers would be kept within reasonable limits, and these would be of a better stamp, because of the lengthened experience required in the school-room. Mr. Crooks agreed with the deputation in their views, and gave them to understand that he did not regard the present regulation requiring of 'ly one year's training as a hard and fast one and incapable of amendment ! On the contrary, he conveyed the impression that so soon as the term of service could be lengthened without interfering with the necessary supply of teachers it should be done.

In regard to the second resolution he explained that in every case he required specific information from Inspectors as to the existence of certain necessary conditions before a permit was issued ; the most important of these was the scarcity of properly-qualified teachers in the district. In every case where the Inspector did not certify to this the permit was refused. It was pointed out to him that these conditions were sometimes set aside. One case was mentioned of a district in which two permits were granted, though there were applicants in each case of properly qualified second-class teachers for the positions the permits were given to fill. He admitted that this may have been true, but said that the Inspector of that district had been replaced by a more trustworthy man. He was asked if permits could not now be done away with altogether in the principal counties, and he replied that since he took office he had caused an immense decrease in the number, and he had no doubt that within a limited time they would be things of the past, except in the outlying townships. He pointed out the desirability of recognizing merit in many third-class teachers, who were unable, from a variety of causes, to secure a higher grade of certificate. The deputation quite agreed with him in this, and disclaimed any desire to prevent deserving and efficient third-class teachers from remaining in the profession ; but it was mentioned that, from a variety of causes, abuses had

crept in, and it was suggested to him, whether before confirming a certificate, it would not be desirable to have some knowledge of the merits of each case brought before him by means of an official of his own in addition to what is supplied from other sources. He said that the number of cases of this kind in the Province was small, probably not above forty.

He said he could hold out no hope of introducing the ballot into school trustee elections, for the simple reason that he was opposed to secret voting, and when it was pointed out to him by Mr. Spence that there was some inconsistency in having the votes for municipal councillors and members of Parliament by ballot, and those for school trustees open, he replied that the danger of bribery and corruption was so small as hardly to necessitate secret voting for school trustees. He was reminded that teachers sought this as a protection to themselves in the exercise of their rights as citizens.

In support of the fourth resolution, it was pointed out that many young people were appointed to positions as teachers before they had acquired sufficient experience in life, apart from any professional training, to undertake the management of children. That a young man of twenty would be more likely to manage children properly than one of eighteen, that, not only would he have the experience in life that two years at a very impressionable age can give, but he would be more likely to have the dignity manhood gives to assist him. Mr. Crooks admitted the desirability of increasing the age of both male and female candidates, but expressed a doubt whether the respective ages should be eighteen and nineteen, or eighteen and twenty. He was reminded that a female eighteen years of age was, if anything, more matured than a male of twenty. It was suggested to him that if the ages remained as they are, those who enter the profession should be required to act as assistant teachers until they attained the ages of eighteen and twenty years respectively.

In regard to the Apparatus part of the Depository, Mr. Crooks did not think any good