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THE CHARGES AGAINST THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

During the last few weeks a number of grave charges have been made, some of them anonymously, against the members of the Central Committee, and circulated through the press. The charges of wrong-doing are mixed up with criticisms on the policy of the Education Department, and with other charges against one of the members of the Committee, which only indirectly relate to the matters at issue. In so far as the Committee is charged with the responsibility of having proposed and inaugurated certain recent changes in the High and Public School systems, the only reply necessary, over and above that already made by the Chairman, Professor Young, is to point out that the Minister of Education, and he alone, is responsible for such of these charges as have taken place since the change of *regime*, and that the late Council of Public Instruction was responsible for such of them as took place prior to that event. The Minister, no matter from whom he asks

or receives advice, must after all act on his own responsibility, and therefore he has, as might have been expected, carefully excluded all questions of policy from the Commission of Enquiry which has been issued by the Lieut.-Governor in Council on his recommendation. The official announcement states that the Commissioner is the Hon. C. S. Patterson, one of the Judges of the Court of Appeal, that the witnesses will be examined on oath, and that the investigation will be into "such charges as have recently appeared in the newspapers, the allegations of which involve the personal honor or integrity of members of the Education Department."

The principal charges that will form the subject of investigation are, therefore, the following:—(1) That in preparing his examination papers Dr. McLellan was acting in collusion with Mr. Kirkland, Science Master at the Toronto Normal School; (2) that his object was to promote the circulation of a work on "Statics," of which Mr. Kirkland is the author; (3) that some years ago he sought and obtained the assistance of a High School Master in drawing up his mathematical papers both for the Teachers' Examinations and for the Examinations of the University of Toronto; (4) that several members of the Committee have acted in collusion with the publishing house of Adam Miller & Co., and have imparted to that firm such information as enabled them to secure the copyrights of a number of newly authorized text-books, and that J. M. Buchan, M.A., who acted as Chairman of the sub-committee on the authorization of English Grammars, was the principal offender in this respect; (5) that members of the Committee have from interested motives secured the stoppage of the *Journal of Education*, and that in some way they have in connection with that event obtained control of and misappropriated certain Departmental funds. The investigation into these and other charges will no doubt be as thorough as the Hon. Commissioner can make it with the evidence he may be able to elicit. The more complete it is the better, for no small amount of evil has already been done by the circulation of such grave accusations against men who hold such responsible offices as those of Examiner and Inspector. It is to be hoped that those who have formulated the charges anonymously will come forward promptly and state what ground they had for circulating accusations so serious in themselves and so well calculated, if unfounded, to undermine public confidence in the administration of the Department of Education.

SHOULD TEACHERS BE PAID FOR VACATIONS?

From a report of the proceedings of one of the village school boards of this Province we learn that two of the teachers who had ceased teaching at the commencement of the summer holidays had to threaten legal proceedings in order to recover their salaries for the vacation. The trustees unwisely at first resisted the claim, but on taking legal advice they found that a suit in Court would inevitably go against them, and in order to effect a settlement they had to pay the salaries for nearly a month after the vacation—up, in short, to the time when the matter was finally disposed of. Nor did the board surrender with