

strenuously opposed, has been from beginning to end a delusion and a snare. Intended to be an accurate and trustworthy estimate of the condition of our schools, and of the capabilities of the teachers, it attempted what in the very nature of things is impossible. The worst feature in the whole business has been the production of a spirit of toadyism that has occasionally shewn itself, when a more manly course might have been expected. The best interests of the profession require the existence of a proper *esprit de corps*, and, in our opinion, nothing has done more to suppress this than the system we are discussing.

This part of the scheme was emphatically the Inspectors'; but like most of their original notions, it has turned out to be an abject failure. The misfortune will not, however, be without its advantages, if Mr. Crooks has discovered that there is intelligence outside of the official circle. In the report of 1875, the Inspectors make the following remarks in reference to the distribution of a part of the grant, on the results of inspection: "Thorough inspection is admitted to be absolutely essential; but it does not accomplish its important purposes unless it bestows on efficiency a pecuniary reward, and visits inefficiency with a pecuniary penalty. Teachers and school authorities should understand that substantial advantages depend on the results of the personal examination of the schools by the Inspectors." Taking the statement made by themselves of the essential part of their duties, we submit that it is now a question for consideration whether, in view of the condition of the Province, and the existence of other reliable tests, the Government is justified in spending on the inspection of 105 schools almost as much money as it awards on the results of the Intermediate. We have always thought that two energetic and competent men might, by devoting themselves exclusively to their own business, do all the work required. It is true, they might have little time for Teachers' Conventions; but the propriety of engrafting on the duties of a High School Inspector those of the itinerant lecturer is not obvious to the ordi-

nary observer. What we need is less buncombe and more genuine work. This subject, we make bold to say, is one which will force itself on the attention of the Ministry.

While we are glad to see that the per caput allowance on the total average has been increased, we regret that the grant to be distributed on the Upper School average has fallen off. This we regard as a mistake. There are few schools now that have not an Upper School of some description, and in the progress of improvement even the present state of matters will improve. Just as under the old plan the middle grade of schools will suffer. The weak ones will receive comparatively liberal support: the Collegiate Institute grant will, in the case of a few schools, do something towards supplying adequate Legislative aid; but the High Schools on the border line of the latter will still suffer. An increase in the amount to be apportioned on Upper School attendance would, in some measure, obviate the difficulty without interfering with the claims of those of the lower grades. We should much prefer to see the grant on the total average remain unchanged, if increasing it is to have the effect of diminishing that based on the Upper School attendance. But we shall return to this subject in another number. We cannot refrain, however, from impressing on Mr. Crooks the great necessity there exists for promptness in the matter of the payment of the Legislative grant. It is now generally two months after the close of each half-year before the High School Treasurer receives the amount, and in many places the delay is productive of serious inconvenience. We trust that the Minister will give this matter his serious consideration. He has done much to improve the condition of our schools. He is admittedly anxious to do his utmost to make them more prosperous. We need hardly assure him that promptness is a necessary adjunct of liberality—*Bis dat qui cito dat*.

OFFICIAL INTERFERENCE IN THE APPOINTMENT OF TEACHERS.

SOME time ago an Education Office official took upon himself to recommend