

The fact of the matter is, that no one has any right to be near the passing point, if he thinks himself truly qualified. He should be away above it. Any rights near the "passing" limit are only technical rights; and for expedition in deciding what is only a technical point the council lays down the rule for the guidance of examiners, and has it published for the information of all as to the procedure thus promised to be followed. It will be therefore understood that if the Superintendent should allow himself or one of the examination officers to add even one point to any candidate's papers except according to the law published as the exact procedure in all cases, he would be untrue to the council, unfaithful to the general public, and unfit to be at the head of the administration.

"But the examiner who marks hundreds of questions a day may make a slip," it may be said. But that is provided for by requiring the examiner to mark the value of each question in colored pencil on each question. These marks remain on the papers. If any reputable party thinks a question may have been omitted, the Superintendent, has it examined to see if each question is valued, and if the values are added correctly. If there should be a slip the examiner is caught; but some have never been caught even once. The Superintendent is as interested in finding that examiners do their work correctly as in seeing that the candidate does his duty according to the examination regulations. In other provinces a fee of from \$4 to \$5 is required for an investigation. In Nova Scotia, hitherto, the Superintendent has had all cases investigated free, partly with the object of testing the care of the examiners. The fact is that there has not been one slip found in a hundred cases of investigation, although one or two turn up in some years. Candidates are often unaware of the blunders they make; and some have so deficient a knowledge of the subject, that their confidence in their work is simply the measure of a profound ignorance of even the general principles.

So long as only a reasonable number of students ask for an investigation, the usual procedure can be followed. Should the requests become numerous, a fee (to be returned if a slip should be found) may be ordered by the Council. Under any circumstances, however, the youngest candidate from the most insignificant community in the province, cannot be imposed upon by the most distinguished examiner. Each individual is entitled to the true value of his paper.

Lastly, were a candidate to read his own answer, it is very likely he would in some cases think it worth more than the examiner, very likely in many cases. But if the examiner valued the question and marked it as required by law on the same scale as the other papers passing through his hands, the value must be accepted. It is the only legal value. The Superintendent has no more power to value differently any question than the candidate has. That is not his duty under the law. And rightly so; for the examiner's values are more likely to be uninfluenced by the knowledge of the personality of the candidate, and he marked the paper on the same plan as the other ones. The Superintendent therefore, can do nothing except see whether any point has been overlooked by the examiner; and if there is a slip he cannot even correct it, for that would be illegal. He has to send the paper back to the examiner, who is compelled to mark the value of any question not marked as valued and correct his previous report over his own signature, and this is kept on file in the archives of the office.

The Superintendent desires every candidate to pass, if qualified, and he is proud of all who do pass. He is sorry for those who do not pass—sorry on account of their own feelings, and on account of the "look" of the failure. But he must see that the rules of the great game are followed exactly by examiner as well as candidate; for any thing else would be unfair and false.