

and in allowing the religious and moral teachers of the people to exercise a legitimate influence and control in the matter. Another point which he emphasized was the determination of his Government to bring the benefits of education home to the masses of the people, to popularize it with them, so to speak, and to impress them with the paramount importance and necessity in this age to make elementary education a prime consideration of the administration and the legislature and to render it more practical in keeping with the requirements and spirit of the times in which we live. But, as he truthfully pointed out, a change of this kind could not be brought about in a moment. It would have to be gradual; otherwise the working of the whole educational system of the province would be stopped, which would be disastrous. The task of reform would have to begin with the teachers, many of whom, though competent enough in other respects, were sadly lacking in knowledge of the proper methods of teaching and school discipline. The result of this was a state of anarchy among the pupils, which was fatal to the influence of the former and the progress of the latter. The Government hoped to gradually remedy this shortcoming without any serious wrench to the operation of our primary schools by giving the teachers the benefit of a course of pedagogy by means of regular lectures on the subject to be delivered in each district by a certain number of expert educationists and by holding out to them material inducements to profit by these lectures. These inducements might take the shape of additions to the teachers' salaries or money prizes to be awarded after official examination and verification of the results at the end of each yearly or half-yearly term as the case might be. "This," said Mr. Mar-

chand, "will cost a relatively small sum to the province, and I am sure that it will be productive of good results."

Still another point upon which the Premier was most emphatic was the necessity of providing as far as possible for a uniformity of text-books, which, he considered, was one of the first steps to be taken before education could be popularized and fully brought within the reach of the masses, the cost of new text-books for their children on every change of school being a heavy tax upon poor parents and one of the greatest obstacles to the spread of education. As for free text-books, he said the Government was not prepared to say what might be done in that direction. A great deal on this and many other heads depended upon the financial condition of the province. However, something in this respect would probably be done for the poorer municipalities.

In conclusion, Mr. Marchand added that the Government's good will to improve the educational system of the province, to ameliorate the condition of the teachers, and to lighten the burdens on the people for school purposes, if not to remove them altogether, would be only restrained by its financial ability to undertake all the expenses necessary for these excellent objects. It could be depended upon, however, to go as far as the means at its command would permit, and to even make great sacrifices, to raise the educational status of our people and to enable them to compete on equal terms with all others in the stern battle of life.

CONVENTIONS.

THE members of the Epworth League met this year in convention in Toronto, July 15. About