

schools, where the conditions with regard to equipment and even salary are barely fulfilled, if indeed they are fulfilled. But a change has come over the subject of our minister's dream since last session. We can all remember that then Mr. Ross tabled a set of regulations, the effect of which would have been to legislate out of existence a few of the weaker and inefficient schools of that class. But the politician was quick to perceive what that meant. Why, it meant unpopularity for the minister in each constituency where the unfortunate school was located. The regulations were withdrawn. Mr. Ross has reconsidered the situation and the result is before us. The conditions are wonderfully simplified and, in one or two cases, amazingly indefinite. Here they are as they appear in the Draft Bill :—

1. Suitable school buildings, out-buildings, grounds and appliances for physical training.

2. Library, containing standard books of reference bearing on the subjects of the programme.

3. Laboratory, with all necessary chemicals and apparatus for teaching the elements of science.

4. Four masters at least, each of whom shall be specially qualified to give instructions in one of the following departments : Classics, Mathematics, Natural Science and Modern Languages with English.

5. Such other teachers as will secure thorough instruction in all the subjects on the curriculum of studies for the time being sanctioned by the Education Department for Collegiate Institutes.

6. An average attendance of one hundred pupils, and eighty pupils during the first and second terms respectively.

It requires no second sight to see what the result must be. By-and-bye we shall have more of these Institutes

with a vengeance. It will please the people in the small towns and larger villages in which such schools are situated to see the distinction meted out to them as scholastic centres. We had almost said that it would in many cases, even as now, the distinction would be without a difference, but the difference will be represented by the increased grant. We cannot but think that this prospective increase of Collegiate Institutes must inevitably be detrimental to the best interests of Secondary Education in Ontario. A mere cursory glance at the above regulations will show that with the exceptions of six and four they are capable of such interpretation as the Department may see fit to attach to them. But the end is not yet.

The new Bill further provides that High School masters will receive remuneration for their services as examiners at the entrance examination—four dollars per day for presiding and an additional seventy-five cents for reading the papers of each candidate. As a simple matter of justice, Mr. Ross deserves credit for this clause, but will the Minister explain why in cities the Inspectors are by law entitled to a fee of five dollars per day for presiding, while in other cases the High School Master is to receive four dollars. But this is a small matter.

It has been currently stated in both the leading papers in Toronto, in connection with this Bill, that the Treasurer of municipal moneys must be the custodian of High School Funds, but we see no regulation to this effect in the Bill before us. This we regard as an unwarrantable interference with the powers of a Board. We are aware of reasons for making the law permissive on this point, but we fail to see why it should be compulsory, unless on the hypothesis that such school corporations are not cap-