

to the regulations laid down by the Department would see that what he contended for was recognized in them, though perhaps not in their practical enforcement. There was no necessity for teachers having to come up to so high a standard in order to teach the branches laid down in the regulations. He went on to refer to the regulation in respect to the employment of an additional teacher when there were more than fifty pupils, and said the feeling in the country was that in such cases, if the trustees and teachers were agreeable, a monitor selected from the pupils would be sufficient. He contended that it was absurd that all children, irrespective of their natural abilities, health, and other considerations, should be required to devote the same number of hours after school to their lessons. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. CROOKS said that a very considerable modification had been made recently in regard to some of the points referred to by the hon. gentleman. For example, in those with regard to the subjects and the hours of study, &c., a good deal of discretion was now allowed on the part of teachers and trustees. He had found that a rigid and literal enforcement of all the regulations of the old Council of Public Instruction had taken place, when it was not intended that they should be more than a maximum standard, and that a great deal of discretion should be allowed. As he gained further information on these subjects he might perhaps find it necessary to make further modifications.

Mr. DEROCHE said that there was no doubt a great deal of dissatisfaction with the cast-iron character of some of the regulations, and there was much truth in some of the observations of the hon. member for South Huron. Many Inspectors were in the habit of enforcing these regulations rigidly upon rural sections, when they were intended to apply only to towns and cities. He instanced the regulations prescribing the branches of study and the employment of additional teachers when the school attendance reached a certain number. He was pleased that the Minister had to-night expressed his intention of modifying some of these regulations.

Mr. GIBSON said he was not disposed to find fault with the Minister of Education, as that gentleman had only recently taken charge of the Department, and had had, no doubt, to contend with all its traditions, however inapplicable they might be to the present state of things. A very large sum was spent annually for purposes of education, and the question was, Were the people getting value for their money? He did not think they were. If our system was so perfect as some contended, why was it that the cost of the criminal administration of justice was advancing year by year? That, however, was a question which could not be one of mere temporary regulation. He thought that perhaps it was now too easy for a child to acquire a good education, for he did not think that it would do a child any harm to contend with obstacles, even on the lower steps of the ladder of education. The tendency of our present system was to drive too many young men into professional and mercantile pursuits, which, without any disparagement to them, were non-productive classes. He believed that the late distress and depression was largely owing to this fact. (Hear, hear.) While it was the duty of the State to give every child a good education, he did not know that it was its duty to render the acquirement of that education too easy. In the present state of affairs it was a serious question who were to be the men who should till the soil and build our railways after immigration had ceased. He thought the Minister, instead of taking his inspiration entirely from Inspectors and Teachers' Associations, should consult more frequently the County Councils, who were the real representatives of the popular sentiments. He noticed that the meetings of the teachers almost invariably wound up with an attempt to increase their salaries, but he thought considering their hours of labour that the present salaries were very fair. The present standard of education was altogether too high, and it seemed to have been raised

at the expense of the morals of the teachers, to judge by the recent examination paper frauds. Though there was not now so much reason for complaint in regard to changes in school books, yet the changes were still rather frequent. (Cheers.)

Mr. SINCLAIR said there had been a good deal of trouble in getting the Inspectors appointed by the Councils, and these gentlemen were now under the control of Councils. Why, then, didn't the people reach the difficulty through their municipal representatives, instead of constantly complaining to the Minister.

Mr. DEROCHE said the County Councils had nothing to do with framing the regulations.

Mr. SINCLAIR said he had always found that the Minister was anxious to relax the regulations so as to give the people as much control as possible. He had no great objection to Inspectors taking a part in politics, but he thought an Inspector should be allowed to disparage the Departmental regulations, or his superior officer, the Minister of Education. He did not think that either Reformers or Conservatives would sympathize with any attempts of that kind. He believed the standard for teachers was none too high, and was glad that the salaries were now large enough to induce good men to enter the profession. The tendency of too many young men to enter professional or mercantile pursuits was one they could not attempt to counteract in any arbitrary manner, but was one which in time would work its own cure. (Hear, hear, and cheers.)

Mr. GRAHAM said he believed the Minister of Education was doing all he could to perfect our now unequalled system of education, but he was perhaps not fully aware of what the real sentiments of the country were. He advocated the appointment of a Committee to revise our school laws.

Mr. LANE thought there were too many studies prescribed for the schools, and that the standard of education required of teachers was somewhat too high for the necessities of the schools. Some of the Inspectors, too, enforced the regulations in altogether too arbitrary a manner, and he thought that perhaps the regulations themselves should be rendered more elastic. He contended that it was wrong for teachers to compel pupils to spend so much time in study after school hours, when they had much better be engaged in physical exercise.

Mr. BOULTER said that when it became known throughout the country that the Inspectors had as much discretion as they had in the exercise of their powers, the school law would work more satisfactorily than now.

Mr. PRESTON said that in his experience the school law was working well, and he knew of no instance in which the Inspector exercised his powers too arbitrarily. Some fault was found, however, because they did not spend more time in the schools and deliver addresses more frequently. He did not think that the standard of qualification of teachers was also too high.

Mr. RICHARDSON said the standard of qualification for third-class certificates was too severe. He read some extracts from an address by Prof. Dupuis, of Queen's College, Kingston, in corroboration of his own views. It would be well, he thought, to relax a little in this respect. There was a decided improvement in the school system of late years, but it was a matter for grave consideration whether we did not confine the children too long in the schools.

Mr. LYON said a great deal of dissatisfaction which formerly existed in his county had been removed. The programme of lessons had been changed, and a portion made optional—an arrangement which gave great satisfaction. With regard to the building of school-rooms, it was quite evident that sufficient accommodation should be provided for the children in each section. It was necessary that some person should have control over this question, and be able to say what kind and how large the buildings should be. He was sorry to hear the opinion expressed that for the purposes of agri-