

**REFORM IN EDUCATION.****PREMIER WHITNEY SPEAKS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS.****Reorganization of Normal School System First—Proposed Agricultural Schools—No Legislation Affecting Collegiate Institutes or High Schools.**

Replying to a strong deputation from Morrisburg, where he lived and practised law for many years prior to taking up his residence in Toronto, Premier Whitney, on Saturday afternoon, emphasized the point that the question of increasing the number of normal schools was still more or less in the air. The Government was, however, convinced, as he had said on former occasions, that in order to attain the most beneficial results in the way of education it was absolutely necessary to increase the capacity of the teachers and their salaries. The Premier deprecated the tendency on the part of inspectors, pupils, parents and teachers to regard the success of pupils in examinations as of paramount importance. Education he defined as aiding the mind to unfold itself and absorb and take in whatever surrounded it. Cramming, with the sole end in view of attaining the highest possible number of marks at examinations, was not education. Proceeding, he said the Government believed the first thing to do to attain the objects in view was to reorganize the present normal school system. The model schools had done good work, but some people thought they could not do enough to fill the requirements of the teacher of the future. The Government's plan it was felt would secure first of all a better class of teachers receiving higher salaries than was now the case. It would also insure greater permanency in the profession, particularly on the part of men teachers, the majority of whom now regarded it as a makeshift and a stepping-stone to other walks of life.

Alluding to a reference by one of the speakers to agricultural schools, the Premier recalled his continued advocacy while in Opposition of such a policy. He had time and again held that the Province of Ontario could support half a dozen small institutions, not colleges, where instruction could be given in agriculture. "That," he said, "is an idea that is left for the future to develop. If we should continue in power and continue to maintain the confidence of the people, that will be considered carefully, definitely and specifically, and carried out in the way that seems best for the advantage of all concerned."

The Premier referred in commendatory terms to the high schools and collegiate institutes of the Province, in regard to which, it is understood, there will be no legislation this session. The duty of the Government, he continued, must be primarily to the ninety-six per cent attending the public schools. Towards that end their efforts were at present directed. He did not think the question was one in which politics would be interjected. The Opposition in the Legislature, he had reason to believe, would be found co-operating with the Government in the endeavor to take the most desirable steps in reference to this question, which could not be settled at one session. For the request of the deputation that one of the projected new normal schools be established at Morrisburg he promised consideration. So also did Hon. Dr. Pyne, who with Hon. Messrs. Matheson, Foy and Cochrane, was present throughout the

interview.

Afterwards the Premier took the members of the deputation, all of whom were personal friends, on a tour of the buildings. Among those on the deputation were Messrs. A. Broder, M. P., J. W. Allison, W. H. McGannan, A. A. Logan, Johnson Dillon, George Rose, William Eager, J. S. Jameson, W. K. Farlinger, I. Hilliard, W. S. Connolly, T. McDonald, Rev. G. S. Anderson and Dr. McLaughlin.

**KINGSTON GETS A GRANT.****MEDICAL EDUCATION TO BE AIDED IN THAT CITY.**

**No Decision Yet as to the Specific Manner in Which the Grant Shall be Applied—Queen's University Representatives See the Government.**

The Government has decided that its plans for the extension of medical education in Ontario shall include a grant to be expended in the city of Kingston with that end in view. The amount of the grant and the question as to whether it shall be devoted toward a school of biology and public health in connection with Queen's University or as an independent institution has not yet been decided. Rev. Principal Gordon, Dr. Ryan, Dr. J. C. Connell and Mr. W. F. Nickle of Queen's University arrived in the city from Kingston on Saturday morning and had a conference with the Premier and his colleagues in reference to the question. A definite conclusion was not reached, but the opinions of the gentlemen named will undoubtedly have considerable weight with the Government in legislation respecting the disposition of the grant.