Public Elementary Schools: Regulations.

REGULATIONS, DATED 11TH MARCH, 1938, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION UNDER THE EDUCATION ACTS (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1923 TO 1935.

1938. No. 28.

1.—These regulations may be cited as the Public Elementary Schools Regulations, 1934, Amending Regulations, No. 7, 1938.

2.—The Public Elementary Schools Regulations, 1934 (Statutory Rules and Orders of Northern Ireland, 1934, No. 40), as amended by the Public Elementary Schools Regulations, 1934, Amending Regulations, No. 1, 1935; Amending Regulations, No. 2, 1936; Amending Regulations, No. 3, 1936; Amending Regulations, No. 4, 1937; Amending Regulations, No. 5, 1937, and Amending Regulations, No. 6, 1937 (Statutory Rules and Orders of Northern Ireland, 1935, No. 69; 1936, No. 83; 1936, No. 159; 1937, No. 17; 1937, No. 57, and 1937, No. 87, respectively), which Regulations as so amended are herein referred to as "The Principal Regulations," are hereby amended as follows :—

3.—Clause (b) of Definitions, Staffing, Part IV, of the Principal Regulations is hereby repealed and the following clause substituted therefor :—

> (b) When the average attendance at a school (other than a school conducted by members of a religious community and paid by capitation grant) for a year ending 31st March is at least 365, the school shall be deemed to be a "large school" from the following 1st July, and shall continue to be regarded as such until the recognition therein of a 7th assistant teacher is no longer warranted by Clause (b) of Article 54 of the Principal Regulations.

4.—Clause (c) of Definitions, Staffing, Part IV, is hereby repealed with effect from 15th January, 1938.

5.—Clause (c) of Article 46 of the Principal Regulations is hereby amended by adding thereto the following :—

> The attendance of pupils at examinations in connection with admission to recognised Preparatory, Intermediate, Secondary or Technical Schools on a day or days when the public elementary school is in operation, may be regarded as an exceptional cause within the meaning of this clause.

6.—Article 54 of the Principal Regulations is hereby amended as follows :—

(i) Clause (a), line 1 : Before " The maximum number of assistants," insert " Except as provided in Clause (h) of this Article."

(ii) The following Clause is hereby added after Clause (g) :

(h) Notwithstanding the terms of the foregoing clauses of this Article, a large school which at the date of these Regulations is staffed in accordance with Articles 40, 44 and 46, or a school which, by reason of increase in attendance, becomes a large school after that date, may continue to be staffed in accordance with Articles 40, 44 and 46 until the occurrence of the first vacancy therein for an assistant

7.—Article 58 of the Principal Regulations is hereby repealed.

8.—Article 67 of the Principal Regulations is hereby repealed and the following Article substituted therefor :—

67. All candidates for appointment as teachers in

(1) An Infants' School,

(2) Classes containing Infants or First or Second Standard in a Junior School,

(3) Classes containing Infants or First Standard in schools (other than Infants' or Junior Schools) with more than three assistants

must be fully qualified in Infant Training.

Any of the following qualifications will be accepted as fulfilling this requirement :—

(*a*) Certificates from Kindergarten Institutions approved by the Ministry.

(*b*) A favourable report from the Ministry's Organiser in connection with the teacher's period of training in a recognised training college. This qualification shall be provisonal only, and shall be confirmed or withdrawn at the same time as the diploma. If a teacher holding this provisional qualification undertakes work for the first time in an infants' school or in classes containing infants, first or second standard after she has obtained the diploma, she shall be on trial as a teacher of such classes and shall be required to qualify for confirmation of this provisional qualification by means of a special test conducted after two years' service in that capacity.

(*c*) Highly efficient service in infants' schools or in classes containing infants, first or second standard,

9.—Clause (a) of Article 71 of the Principal Regulations is hereby repealed and the following Clause substituted therefor :—

71. (a) Principal and assistant teachers and trained junior assistant mistresses on first appointment shall be placed on probation. For the purpose of probationary service, which may include service as a substitute, credit shall only be given—

(1) for a period of not less than three months' continuous service in one school, or

(2) for a period of not less than two months' continuous service in a school followed either immediately or after an interval of not more than five school days by a further period of not less than two months' continuous service in a school, whether the same or another school.

The duration of probationary service reckoned as above shall be two years, which must be completed within a period of five years :

Provided that an aggregate of service (including all shorter portions for which no credit can be given under (1) and (2) of this Clause) of three years, if completed within a period of five years, may be accepted as a sufficient duration of probationary service.

If towards the end of this probationary service the probationer's work is rated as efficient, as a result of a special inspection, full recognition and the diploma will be granted from the day after the completion of such service. In cases of doubt a decision may be postponed for six months, and if about the end of that additional period of service the teacher's work, when re-tested, is rated as efficient, full recognition and the diploma will be granted from the day after the completion of the additional six months' service.

If the probationer's work does not reach an efficient standard at the end of his probationary service (extended where necessary for the additional period of six months) the teacher may, after consideration of the reports on his work by the Ministry's inspectors, be granted a further two years' probation—to be known as the second probationary period. During the second probationary period a teacher shall be recognised, if a man, only as an assistant, or, if a woman, as an assistant or junior assistant mistress, and recognition as a principal teacher, if the probationer has been serving as such, shall be withdrawn (at least three months' notice being given). If towards the end of the second probationary period the probationer's work is rated as efficient, full recognition and the diploma shall be granted from the day after the completion of this second pro-