

simple and easy text books that would impart at least the rudiments of these branches.

School inspection. Doubtless the School Inspector performs his duties as well as it lies in his power to do, and as far as I have known them, personally I have found them faithful, earnest men, who were anxious to promote the welfare of the teacher and progress of the school. As I have already said, they doubtless do their duty well so far as it is given them to do, but the circumstances and conditions of things are against them. If school inspection is necessary, let it be done by some one who has, to a certain extent, a constant supervision of the schools, say the teacher of the local Academy, the clergy of the vicinity, or some one who would be in a better position to judge of the progress or otherwise of the school, or let the inspector's visits be more frequent, till he becomes thoroughly acquainted with both teachers and scholars, and the parents too.

Lastly, I reach the Department of Public Instruction, or rather the Protestant Committee of that department. I notice, though, in passing, that I have omitted to mention an important body connected with our elementary schools, the board of School Commissioners. Well, being rather intimately associated with certain boards, perhaps the less said of them in the way of criticism the better for me. However, school boards are not perfect, but being more directly under the control of the department than any other part of the educational ship, they being the rudder, while the department is the helm which governs their movements and shapes their course, consequently the department is responsible to a certain extent for their acts, and, so far as my experience goes, I have found them at all times ready to carry out the suggestions and second the efforts of the department in all things. The department I think have made great improvement in this work in every direction, and the Protestant committee, under the able and efficient direction of their late secretary, have accomplished a grand work in rendering the school system of the province in many respects second to none; but let them not weary in well doing; let them not be content to rest on the laurels earned in the past. There is still work to do, Mr. Chairman. While I advocate better buildings, better teachers, higher salaries, I also plead for larger grants, especially to our common schools. Help those who help themselves is a good motto. A few years ago, in making up the secretary's report, we had to make a solemn declaration that the amount raised by taxes for school purposes was equal to the government grant. I propose that we reverse the order, and