

obliged to limit the surveillance over these to articles brought into market, that is to say, sold by the booksellers. But many of these articles are very defective in comparison with others more modern. Grammars and Geographies, which you yourselves used long ago, have now lost their value through the publication of similar but improved works. Progress in this direction need surprise no one. It is the same with respect to School books, &c., as agricultural implements—we are always on the look out for the means of perfecting them. It is true that the Council of Public Instruction has not lost sight of those improvements, nor failed to approve and recommend good Manuals whenever these were published; but the law left full liberty to the municipalities to buy for themselves the old and the new works alike, and it is easy to see that the publishers had an interest in not causing the old ones to be displaced by offering you the new. One can also comprehend, on the other hand, that the Secretary Treasurers of School Municipalities have not all specially qualified themselves to judge concerning methods of teaching and the comparative merits of School Text-Books. The result has been that comparatively few scholars have profited by the introduction of improved works.

Another result has been to cause confusion in respect of text books, and to expose you to considerable expense whenever new teachers reject the Manuals used by their predecessors.

The creation of a *dépôt* in the Department will put an end to those inconveniences. The law, as it now stands, is to the following effect: every year, in the course of July and August (clause 30), you are required to transmit to the Superintendent a requisition for the text books, &c., needed for each of your Schools; these will be dispatched to you without delay; the furnishings required will all be of the best make and the most inexpensive that can be procured; the books will be the best of those sanctioned by the Council of Public Instruction, and will be sold to you at cost price with the addition of the charges for storage, transport, &c.; regard should be had to this expenditure at the times when you lay the School rates, but should you not thus make provision for it by means of the rates, then the reimbursement of the cost must be procured by the distribution of the books and other articles required by the scholars, to whom, however, they must be supplied at prices not exceeding what you have paid for them. All matters relative to this subject will be managed subject to regulations to be established by the Superintendent and to come into force when sanctioned by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

It is evident that this system implies economy for the parents. First, there will be a saving in respect of commercial profits, and secondly in avoiding the frequent changes of text books; in future, it will become possible to have uniformity in these. In short, we shall have the most approved text books at the smallest possible cost.

It has been suggested that the system is calculated to be hurtful to the interests of the booksellers. Not so. The new law will not make the Superintendent either a publisher or a book maker. It will be open to the booksellers always to realize just profits by furnishing the Educational *Dépôt*. I know, however, very well, that the law will be a source of real benefit to the country at large. It has been called for in past years by my predecessors and by the Council of Public Instruction.

I only regret that the *Dépôt* cannot be made complete at once; in fact, for that, a couple of years' time will

be necessary. Nevertheless, you should transmit your requisition next July and August, for then, it will be practicable to furnish a considerable number of articles, including some of the most approved of the text books sanctioned by the Council of Public Instruction, copy books, pencils, globes, wall maps etc., and the account books, already referred to in this circular.

ACADEMIES AND MODEL SCHOOLS.

The law sanctions the establishment of a Model-School, or Academy, in the most thickly inhabited neighbourhood in every school municipality, and authorizes the School Commissioners and trustees to devote to that object \$80 a year from the school funds. The law and the regulations passed by Council of Public Instruction prescribe the subjects to be taught in those institutions. The Model Schools and the Academies comprise two distinct classes, and the former being Elementary and exclusively for the children of the district in which they are situated, the latter *Superior* Schools, open to all the children of the Municipality who have followed an elementary course in their respective districts, and who pay the monthly fees.

On the report of the Superintendent and recommendation of the Committees of the Council of Public Instruction, Academies and Model Schools usually receive grants from the funds for promoting Superior Education. It must not be imagined, however, that the mere giving of the name of Academy or Model School will constitute a just claim to a grant from those funds. It is necessary that such institution shall have been in operation at least a year before making the application for aid, and that the course of instruction shall be up to the prescribed standard; also, that the building be suitable in all respects and the classes provided with black boards, globes, maps, etc., and, above all, that the teacher be competent. Occasionally, aid has been given to merely elementary schools from those sources without their possessing just claims to it, and, in certain cases, the good faith of the authorities has been taken advantage of, that is, the aid has been obtained under false pretexts. But this matter has now been set in order, and I hope that, for the future, no school will be styled a Model School or Academy for the sole purpose of securing a grant, but, above all, with a view of raising the standard of elementary studies. You know, in fact, that these higher institutions are intended to enlarge the course of study of the elementary schools, and to prepare the scholars to fill successfully positions in the trades and professions, in business and agriculture. If the instruction given be really what is needed, the scholars, at the termination of their courses, will be able to pass an examination for certificates of qualification, and to become, in their turn, instructors.

But to arrive at such results, it is necessary, above all, to secure the services of good teachers, and these can only be had by offering adequate remuneration.

TEACHERS' SALARIES.

By the new law (clauses 26, 27, 28), you are bound, on pain of a fine, to keep your teachers paid up to the end of each half year, and the semi-annual reports of your secretary-treasurers must specify their payment in order to entitle you to a share of the Government money. I trust you will not overlook this requirement, for, on my part, I will observe it strictly. According to the last reports of the Inspectors I have drawn up the following table respecting teachers' salaries:—