

INSPECTOR HUBBARD'S REPORT.

SHERBROOKE, May 1, 1884.

HON. GÉDÉON OUMET,

Superintendent of Public Instruction, Quebec.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit my Annual Report and Statistical Tables for the current scholastic year.

The year has witnessed considerable change in this district, not so much in the number of schools in operation and the attendance (in the former of which there has been a slight diminution, and in the latter a small increase,) as in the general management of the schools. In former years, as you are aware, my reports, with regard to about thirty of the municipalities under my inspection, have included two distinct terms,—a summer and a winter term; these, in a majority of cases, having been not only distinct terms, but also taught by different teachers. In some cases, this arrangement was varied by introducing a short fall term; but under that arrangement, instances are not wanting where each term witnessed a change of teachers. For this year, while a few municipalities have continued the old arrangement with but little change, a large majority have adopted the yearly system, either wholly or in part.

The mode of making the change and its extent have varied a good deal in different municipalities and districts; in some cases the summer term was omitted altogether; in some, a short, in others, a full summer term was kept—thus giving, in some of the latter cases, schools for the entire twelve months. This temporary irregularity will, of course, disappear as the system comes fairly into operation, and is more uniformly adopted. I may remark here that this temporary irregularity and variety of management have increased the difficulty of inspection, rendering it necessary in some instances to make three visits or “trips,” instead of two.

The practice of “boarding around” has been almost universally abandoned; only one municipality, I think, not having taken definite action to discontinue it after Jan. 1st. In every municipality, I think, definite lists of authorized text-books have been adopted—in nearly all cases, the text-books suggested by me—but while in many instances their introduction has been a success, fully accomplished and thus a very satisfactory uniformity