

On the authority of the Attorney General, the inspection of schools cost the province in 1857 the sum of £1,300; under the bill of that year there would be inspectors—one for each county—while under this bill the cost of inspection will be £1000; and it must be obvious to any one at all acquainted with the duties, and extent of country to traverse, that the sum is too small: after expenses are paid the recipient of £250 will have little left. Hence, it will only be a waste of money, without producing any good results to the province. The bill in fact, to use the language of the Surveyor General, “was indeed substantially the same as the former—there was no radical change.” But we differ with his honor when he says, “there was no room for any” change; for there was room: and there is room for change from this bill also. It certainly looks like a waste of money to spend £500 in legislating for education without making one practical improvement.

The section of the bill providing for the establishment of superior schools in the province, by the inhabitants raising £70, and the province paying £50, is practically putting a veto on their establishment, except in wealthy communities.

If this bill had authorised the trustees to examine and inspect the schools, and given them twenty-shillings per annum for the examination of each school, in place of paying *eight hundred pounds* per annum to others for doing no commensurate good,—for it is the old system over again, only worse, if possible,—some good might have resulted—besides two or three hundred pounds saved;—and the people would have been encouraged to take an active part in the matter.

Large sums are annually bestowed on the higher institutions of education, without the government pretending to appoint superintendents and inspectors, to govern, examine, or report on them; but when action is to be taken on the common schools, a lot of officials must be appointed to receive all the money, while the people have to do the work, and incur the expenses.

We firmly believe the common schools will never assume a proper standard of usefulness, until the people, for whose special benefit they are instituted, take

a more lively interest in their behalf, which it is doubtful they will ever do, until they obtain control of them, with the offices and emoluments attached thereto.

Female teachers are to be allowed, as heretofore, to give their female pupils instruction in common needle-work.—We hope the inspectors to be appointed will be fully competent for the task of examination. The inspectors under a former law have been very remiss in this respect—they have failed to make any report as to the improvement being made in this department of parish school instruction, which very probably arose out of their ignorance of the work.—This is too bad: men appointed to an office who are ignorant of its duties.

If this system is to be continued, we suggest the propriety of allowing every male teacher to give the boys under his charge daily lessons in making axe-handles. We presume no person in this country, who has ever cast a glance at the state of our forests, or felt the necessity of a good winter's fire, but will see the reasonableness of this suggestion.

Under the law now about expired, twenty-five per cent. was allowed to such districts or parishes as would adopt the assessment principle; by the law under review, only ten per cent. is allowed.—This is legislating backwards—this is worse and more of it; still the principle appears popular with the legislature.

Another very remarkable feature in the bill is, it does not even once name either *God* or the *Bible*; and it also states that no “works on controversial theology shall be admitted” into our schools. Now it is well known that all the works put together, has not given rise to so much “controversial theology” as the Bible. It is the theology of the Bible that the world has been fighting about ever since a Bible was given to man. And after all, it is the teaching of this theology that is elevating all departments of society, as far as its influence is felt; and as nations and countries approximate their acts to this standard, so do they become enlightened and civilized. This bill, we are informed, has been much altered in its passage through the legislature, with respect to the introduction of the sacred scriptures as a school book; but it is somewhat astonishing that any government,—we do