

labours are so far advanced that the Legislature of the State of New York is to be asked, at its next session, to set apart \$1,400,000 as compensation to the property-owners for the land to be expropriated in order to form the Park. The State of New York does itself great honour by taking up the project in the way it has done, not only wishing to preserve one of the wonders of the world from desecration, but to make it free to others besides rich tourists. It is said that most of the property-owners are satisfied with the proposed compensation, although they claimed more than three times as much. We hope that our own legislators will not allow the project of an International Park at Niagara Falls to drop. Every year that passes will add to the necessity for it and the difficulty of carrying it out, and it will be not only a graceful and public-spirited act, but a real benefit to the country.

At the December meeting of the Board of Education for Hamilton Mr. J. H. Smith tendered his resignation as Inspector of the Public Schools of the city, and Mr. W. H. Ballard, M.A., Mathematical Master in the Collegiate Institute was appointed to the vacant Inspectorship. This change was chiefly brought about by a strong feeling entertained by certain members of the Board that the whole time of an Inspector should be devoted to the work of the Public Schools. With this view we are cordially in sympathy, as we believe that in a large and prosperous city like Hamilton there is work enough in the Public Schools to occupy the entire time of an Inspector. The change thus made is a change of system and not simply of men. In 1879, at the death of the late Mr. Macalium, it became necessary to appoint an Inspector. Certain leading members of the Board, thinking the time favourable, prepared a scheme by means of which it was proposed to put the entire school system of the city practically under the management of one person. To accomplish this purpose, the city was divided into four districts with a Head Master over each district; the Principal of the Collegiate Institute was made

Principal of the Public Schools as well, and to meet the requirements of the school law an Inspector was appointed who was required to devote a specified time in each half-year to the inspection of the Public Schools of the city. This plan has been in operation for upwards of five years, and while it has much to commend it, it has not proved satisfactory to many of the citizens of Hamilton, and hence the change.

In Mr. W. H. Ballard, the newly-appointed Inspector of Public Schools for Hamilton, the Board have secured the services of an eminent educator, and one whom we have every reason to believe will render valuable service in his new field of labour. For many years past he has been Mathematical Master in the Collegiate Institute, and the record of that school shows conclusively that in the department of mathematics he has few equals as a teacher. During a number of years in succession the pupils trained by him have won the highest honours at the Senior and Junior Matriculation at Toronto University. Though a specialist in mathematics, he has not neglected other departments of our educational work. He has taken an active part in all the Teachers' Conventions that have been held in Hamilton, and in some of those held in the adjoining counties as well. We have, therefore, every reason to believe that he will make a successful Inspector, and congratulate the Board upon their judicious choice and Mr. Ballard upon entering his new field of labour.

We often feel great professional sympathy for the isolated country teacher, who has perhaps from twenty to fifty pupils, from those who can hardly speak plain to those who can do questions in Interest. Teachers who have charge of one graded class, though they have their difficulties, have much to be thankful for. It is often in the classes reading in say the Second and Third reading books that the trouble of introducing a proper course of study begins. Nevertheless, do not let yourselves be discouraged, even though some of your precious pupils do not