

of all feeling among teachers, establishes merit as the sole standard of graduation, and, judging from the experience of past years, will have the effect of retaining in our ranks many of our best teachers who, under the old law, would be induced to enter other employments. Had we done nothing more than to bring this matter prominently before the proper authorities, and help to effect the change that has just been made, our organization would not have existed in vain.

"A thorough system of school inspection is of vital importance to the efficiency of our schools. Until the present year, two serious evils existed. Incompetent persons were frequently appointed to the office of Superintendent, and many who were competent, not being sufficiently remunerated to spend their whole time in the work, made the duties of the office subordinate to their other avocations. In addition to the injury sustained by the schools themselves, how humiliating and vexatious to the competent teacher to be compelled to listen to criticisms on his system of imparting instruction from officials entirely ignorant of school organization or the best methods of teaching. How galling to the man of education to be examined by a superintendent far inferior to himself in attainments, and whose stock of knowledge would be considerably increased by attending one of said teacher's junior classes. In the case of that class usually termed professional men, who held this office, the fault was not so much a lack of education as a want of interest—although the knowledge of a profession does not necessarily include a knowledge of teaching, and not always a thorough acquaintance with the subjects taught. As might naturally be expected, so much time, only, as could be spared from professional duties would be devoted to school visiting. Hence the more successful and popular as a professional man the less efficient and useful as a superintendent. Let it not be supposed that all persons holding this position were inefficient. There have been many worthy exceptions—men thoroughly competent, conscientious, and devoted to their work; and it is gratifying to know that special provision has been made in the law to render these gentlemen eligible for appointment to the office of Inspector without further examination. In order to supply a remedy, this Association, on more occasions than one, recommended that all Superintendents should possess, at least, the qualification of first-class teachers, combined with practical experience in teaching, and that appointments should be made for counties instead of townships. By the late School Act and the regulations based on it, these recommendations have been fully carried out. School Inspectors are now to be selected from among the highest grade of practical teachers only.

"It is unnecessary further to enumerate the provisions of the recent Statute. Nearly all the important changes introduced have been recommended by teachers themselves. The utmost readiness has been shown by the Legislature, the Chief Superintendent of Education, and the Council of Public Instruction, to listen to the suggestions of the Ontario Teachers' Association. If the results should prove unsatisfactory, we have ourselves to blame.