

Suppose, further, that the master has an *apiary*, your children will learn the mode of rearing bees—a matter easy in itself, but ignored by many owing to their ignorance of its importance. You should enjoin on your teachers to keep bees, and with that view, you should yourselves, if necessary, furnish the first hives. The rearing of bees is inexpensive and at the same time profitable. I here subjoin a leaf of an account transmitted to me by one who makes a business of it, Mr. Thomas Valiquet, of St. Hilaire :

1ST YEAR (1874)

Cost of a Hive of Bees.....	\$12 00
White Sugar given in syrup in the spring to assist in nourishing the young insects.....	1 00
Cost of wood, &c., for constructing the small honey-boxes.....	2 20

2ND YEAR (1875)

White sugar given in syrup (no further expense)	1 20
Total.....	\$16 40

PROCEEDS :

One Hive of Bees.....	\$12 00
Small boxes of honey (1874).....	13 00
Liquid honey, 8 lbs. at 10 cts.....	00 80
Boxes of honey (1875).....	18 70
Liquid honey, 10 lbs. at 10 cts.....	1 00
	\$45 50
Less expenses.....	16 40
Net profit.....	\$29 10

This species of husbandry is attended, moreover, with the advantage of imparting a fresh attraction to the children's attendance at school.

If now the school house be spacious and airy, if the furniture, desks and seats are appropriate, if the garden be well kept, the children will be delighted with school; instead of inventing excuses of absence, they will love to attend regularly every day, and we shall witness, at length, the disappearance of the grand complaint made by inspectors in all their reports—*irregular attendance in the country schools*. In fact, for nothing at all, under the smallest pretexts, the child fails to attend school; at one time he has an errand for the family, at another, he has been kept to work in the field, as if the labour of a child, 7 to 9 years old, were indispensable for the harvest. It must be understood that when a scholar absents himself from his class at school, he not only loses his own time, but also causes others to lose theirs, for when he returns he is found to be behind the others who have advanced while he has remained stationary. Then the teacher is obliged to recommence and repeat lessons previously given, and those who have continued assiduously at work, thus suffer through the absence of the others; but if the teacher will not, in such cases, repeat his lessons, then those who have been absent sink into lower classes and their disgust for school increases.

But, with whom rests the blame if not with the parents who allow their children to absent themselves under pretexts often futile? A child should never be hindered from attending unless there be some grave cause for absence; the parents who disregard this principle do not reflect that the expense is the same as if the

attendance were regular. In the course of your visits and at the public examinations you should impress that fact on the minds of the parents. Assist me, gentlemen, to bring about reform in this respect; regular attendance at school is prescribed by your own interest and by that of the country even more strongly than by the injunctions of the Law.

VISITS OF THE INSPECTORS.

You are aware that the Inspector, at his official visits, is instructed to verify your accounts, to ascertain the condition of your schools and their management, to observe the state of school houses, their interior equipment, etc. On your part, it is your duty to accompany him. Do you discharge this duty? Not generally. But it should be discharged, in the first instance because it is a duty, and next because it is your interest. In fact, the inspector is substantially an agent intermediate between yourselves and the Superintendent. It is important that you should make him understand the wants of your locality, so that the Superintendent may become cognizant of them by means of his reports, and that it may be possible, in a measure, to fulfil the duties assigned to the Superintendent in respect of satisfying those wants; it is also necessary that you should be cognizant of the ordinary official instructions given to the inspector and which he is charged to carry out. Moreover, the inspector, being a man of experience, his observations are calculated to be of much service to you. His mission is one of a special character, his only concern is with the schools; his remarks and his counsels will always be of a practical nature.

I trust, gentlemen, that you are not of those who entertain a prejudice towards these functionaries. You may comprehend that, without inspection, no regular organisation of a public School system can be maintained. If the staff of School Inspectors were to be abolished, we should be obliged to have recourse to gratuitous inspection, and what would this be worth as respects efficiency? You yourselves are judges of this, who are gratuitously bound simply to accompany the Inspector when he visits your schools.

Also, the Council of Public Instruction, so far from renouncing the services of the inspectors, wishes to augment their number and the efficiency of their work. The Legislature, at its last session, complied with that desire in increasing the appropriation to cover the expenses of inspection and in ordaining that, no one shall act as inspector, in future, without having been a teacher at least 5 years; that he shall hold one of the three grades of diplomas, and pass an examination before a committee of the Council of Public Instruction. These are so many guarantees of an inspector's qualifications.

DEPOT OF BOOKS AND SCHOOL FURNISHINGS.

The 29th clause of the law enacted last session authorizes the establishing, in the Department of Public Instruction, of "a Depot of books, maps, models, specimens, apparatus, and other School furnishings" and a temporary credit to the extent of \$15,000 has been opened for this object. This measure is one of the most important that have ever been adopted, relative to Public Instruction, in this country. In a few words I will explain to you its nature. A system of Public Instruction was organized in our Province in the year 1841. Since that time, the Superintendent, or the Council of Public Instruction, having control of the regulation of the text books and equipments for Schools, has been