

Academies. The proper discharge of this duty implies large mathematical and classical knowledge, as well as clear views as to what constitutes an efficient Teacher, together with a thorough knowledge of the organization and management of Schools, both mixed and graded. (See "*Duties of Examiners.*")

6. The distribution of the Provincial grant is another and important duty of the Commissioners. Under the old Act, this duty was very imperfectly performed, owing to the vagueness which characterized its application to the circumstances of individual Schools. Commissioners, moreover, could not be expected to know the peculiar claims of each section, or the extent of its worthiness or unworthiness to share in the public grant. Hereafter the Inspector will supply this knowledge,—thus guarding the interests of the Province and advocating the just claims of the people.

The new Act lays down three *criteria* of decision:—a "suitable school-house" in sections able to build one, the class of the Teacher's license, and the report of the Inspector. These if honestly applied will disclose the worthiness of the section, the scholarship of the Teacher, and his ability to educate the young,—and these are sufficient. Some would add the number and average attendance of the pupils. But while this seems proper in the case of Superior Schools, it might be unjust to reward or punish the great body of Teachers for that over which they have so imperfect control. And further, the fact that all schools are free, taken in connexion with the capabilities of the Teacher, the supervision of the Trustees, and the visitations of the Inspector, causes us to believe that this object will be as fully secured as is possible without resorting to compulsory measures.

Distributing the provision for the poorer sections is an important duty entrusted to the Board. The Act instructs the Commissioners, on such terms as they may decide, to apply one-fifth of the whole sum granted to Common Schools, to aid "poor and scattered sections," in addition to the amount to which they may otherwise be entitled. This is an admirable provision, and if wisely carried into effect, will be fraught with good to the whole Province. The Inspector ought to be fully able to furnish such information to the Board as will secure to deserving sections a just share of this grant. In many localities, a portion of this money can be judiciously expended in procuring the services of itinerant Teachers. No portion of the District need be denied a School. The different Boards must see that the law, in this matter, is faithfully carried out.

The Commissioners shall also prepare a list of such Schools as are entitled to the Bonus of twenty-five per cent., and instruct the clerk to draw the gross amount from the Provincial Treasury, and to pay the same as soon thereafter as practicable. This Bonus shall not be given to such sections as may resort to assessment to meet deficiencies arising from the failure of subscription. (See *Methods of Supporting Schools.* 6.)

7. The Commissioners at their meeting in November, 1864, shall disburse the Provincial grant according to the provisions of the Old