

the teacher, and through him on the public. Some of these manuals are very poorly written, for example, *Inspector* (save the mark!) Hughes' "Manual of Drill," which is saturated with stupid blunders, with solecisms, bad grammar, and incorrect spelling.

A letter over the signature of "Two Teachers," written evidently in the McLellan interest, appeared the other day in the *Mail*. The teachers contended that as Mr. McLellan had arrived at some valuable mathematical results, it was his evident duty to give them to the world. But we fail to discover in McLellan's manual any great advance either in matter or manner over other better known mathematical text-books.

If Mr. McLellan feels it to be his mission to set up as an author on mathematical or other subjects, let him resign his position as Examiner, School Inspector, and member of the Central Committee. What we objected to, and what the general voice of the press of the country supports us in objecting to, is not the fact of Mr. McLellan writing school manuals, a fact which in itself would be very unimportant indeed, but the other very different fact, that it is in Mr. McLellan's power to puff these manuals all over the country, and to force a fictitious sale by the inevitable pressure brought to bear on teachers in his position as Examiner and Inspector. What we contend for is that no Central Committeeman should be allowed to write or edit school manuals, good or bad, under any circumstances whatever. That is the only way to escape even the appearance of corruption, or to secure the pockets of parents against unscrupulous book publishers or their tools. If "the Teachers," who wrote in the *Mail*, have many like-minded, by all means let them subscribe and raise a fund to enable Inspector McLellan to retire from his inspector-

ship, and devote all his time to giving to the world his valuable ideas in mathematics.

III. Indeed we believe that during Mr. Crooks' term of office the school inspectorate has developed into a vicious system of quackery; objectionable men have been retained, for the most part, for political reasons; and in order to magnify their office, it is but too customary to multiply red tape returns, statistics that rarely go beyond the shelves of the Department, and an overplus of examinations which interferes with the legitimate work of the teacher, and gives Trustees a false ideal of education, to the increase of cramming, that worst pest or parasite of our schools. The schools, under Mr. Crooks' *régime*, are over-inspected and over-governed. The Inspectors have too many functions, and may be said, like the sons of Levi, to take too much upon them. Certainly no Inspector should be an Examiner, still less a member of the ruling Committee.

IV. Another count in the indictment of Mr. Crooks is his conduct with regard to the Book Depository. This has been carried on for about thirty years in unjust competition with the regular book trade. So poor however was the selection of books and so badly managed every business detail, that it became more and more decrepit every year. Still, to the great benefit of those interested, the job was continued, with Mr. Crooks' apparent approval. No balance sheet was ever exhibited, no account of stock was taken, and when the Council of Public Instruction, under a sense of duty, pressed their demand for these, the late Chief Superintendent, by a threat of going to the country with an outcry against the ministry at the then impending election, forced a weak-kneed Minister to dismiss, with customary lack of courtesy,