

thy in them. They barely make the visits required by law. The most crying disorders exist in all the school-districts and under the eyes of the Commissioners. It is all the same to them. The number of five is perhaps more embarrassing than useful. Three educated men would suffice for each municipality. There are but a very small number of parishes where such men could not be found; it is not just then to make the majority suffer for the minority. The rate-payers seeing disorder on the one side, and on the other the indifference of the Commissioners, conceive the most unfavorable ideas of education; they are, therefore, loud in their clamours against the system of education. Hence it follows that they cannot have sufficient zeal to send their children to any college. I do not know whether four or five could be found in the large Parish of St. Césaire, who have been sent to college after having attended our little schools, since the existence of the present law. You can readily understand that the answer to your 14th question will be a negative one.

All our schools have been visited by the Inspector, and I believe twice; one half hour, or three-quarters of an hour, was generally the time devoted to each school at each visit.

It is very doubtful whether education has advanced a step through the ministry of the Inspector. With all the good intentions in the world, his powers are too limited to enable him to act efficiently; it is absolutely necessary that he should exercise a control over the Commissioners under the present system. These, sir, are the few remarks which I deem it my duty to submit to your Committee. I communicate them to you, with the desire of seeing the present system of education amended.

*Messire Payment.*—I am far from being able to tell the Committee over which you preside that the education imparted here is calculated to promote the industrial interests of the country. Apart from reading and writing, the education which the children receive is almost null. I do not pretend to throw all the blame upon the teachers.

If the statistics in my possession do not deceive me, I find that the sums considered as Superintendent's and Inspectors' emoluments amount to £3250. With this sum what has been done? Absolutely nothing in the interests of education. You have had reports, circulars, but all these do not make education advance the least in the world. Let the same sum be given to a minister with well-paid deputies, who will do nothing else but the work they are put to, and I think that matters will go on better.

24. Education proceeds slowly, for the causes above-mentioned; and so long as nothing better is adopted, you will never see the schools turn out any children but such as read badly and write but little.

*Mr. P. Pouliot.*—Another cause which paralyses instruction is the incapacity and unfitness of those who have the principal control. I wish to speak of the Commissioners. Now, I say that as long as the Commissioners are elective, we shall never have other than incapable Commissioners, even though the law itself should require a literary qualification. For, either means will be found to evade the law if the qualification is not well-defined, or no commissioners at all will be elected. And I do not see in the present powers of the Superintendent any effectual remedy.

If the Honorable Committee wish to discover the cause of this fact, it will be found in the principle of forced assessment. People may talk, write and do as they please, but they will not prevent the generality of the agricultural class from finding the assessment odious. I am not prepared to say as much respecting the other industrial classes. These see in the education of their children personal and direct advantages. Instruction is to them a paternal inheritance. The agricultural class view things in a contrary light, as I have above shewn.