

ONTARIO SCHOOLS AND THE DEPARTMENTAL INSPECTORATE.

IN following the foregoing account of the serious breach in England between Head Masters and some of the Inspectors with a few words on the relationship which exists here between the same classes, we trust that we shall not be considered as desiring in the slightest degree to disturb the harmony which, in the main, happily prevails in educational circles in Ontario. Recent events, however, indicate, as yet perhaps feebly, that the course of true love between High School Masters and the official Inspectors of the Province is not likely to continue to be free from the infelicities which usually mark so intimate a relationship. For the present we shall keep out of view the relations that exist between Public School teachers and those numerous, and in most cases, excellent functionaries, the County Inspectors; though, at another time, we may have something to say of matters that mark and affect that relationship. The office of a High School Inspector is admittedly one which exacts arduous labour, and imposes a serious burden of responsibility. As one of the prizes of the profession, in view of the onerous duties of the office, it is difficult to know wherein lies its attraction. It is true, the salary is a good one, and the Public Accounts shew that it can be considerably supplemented. But the work, unquestionably, must often be disagreeable and exacting. It involves frequent and often lengthy absence from home, with but few of the pleasures, and little of the comforts, of travelling. In the remoter districts of High School location, the experiences of the visiting officials must often be greatly and disagreeably aggravated. Added to all this, there are the delicate duties to be performed which connect themselves with the objectionable system of "Payment by results"—a system which must place a great strain on the mental, moral, and physical powers of the conscientious Inspector. Verily, his duties, if undertaken in the right spirit, and ruled by principle, are not to be coveted. In the spirit in which we de-

sire to write of so useful a class of men, we must frankly and fully say this much for the High School Inspectors.

On the other hand, there attaches to their position coveted official rank, Departmental consideration, and the pleasing accompaniments of professional and social distinction. In contrast with these, the High School Master occupies not only a less exalted professional position, but one oftentimes made irksome by its dependence upon the good faith and friendliness of the Inspector. His work, moreover, is greater, and its pecuniary rewards less, than are those of his more favoured brother. In preferment, too, he is at a disadvantage, as the step from the Inspector to the Minister is a more possible one than is that of even the Head of a Collegiate Institute. This, at least, we judge from the one-time aspirations of a certain politician-Inspector. In view of these contrasts in position, what, it might reasonably be asked, should be the relations existing between the two classes of men? Certainly not those that breed suspicion of, and harassingly molest, the High School Master. Still less should they be those that manifest arrogance and breathe hostility, on the part of the Inspector. So far from there being displays of such a spirit, there should be the most cordial understanding, and a hearty interchange of the kindest feelings. There are few relations in which men stand to each other that more urgently call for the reciprocal expression of sympathy and regard than those subsisting between the men to whom we refer. Not only are enjoyable intercourse and social pleasure dependent upon the existence of mutual confidence and good will, but the interests of education can only be served by their presence and be promoted by their exercise. How carefully, then, should harmonious relations be cultivated, and no interests be allowed to disturb them, other than those which may unhappily have to be considered in the just performance of duty. The Inspector, of all men, should hold the balance evenly. He should attach himself to no clique; and have no interests save those with which he is professionally en-