

[3.] Particular attention is directed to the importance attached by the Council of Public Instruction to the systematic and thorough inspection of school work. The notes of Inspection suggest the proper subjects of inquiry and examination. The following points may be specially noted:

a. Time should be taken to enable an intelligent judgment to be formed regarding the classification of the school, the methods of instruction pursued, the order and discipline maintained, and the general ability and faithfulness of the Teacher. A class exercise or two conducted by the Teacher, either at his own discretion or by request of the Inspector, will prove far from sufficient for the above purposes. The latter official should in all cases personally test the knowledge and progress of the pupils by appropriate questions and requirements, and he should himself illustrate, as opportunity may offer, the most approved methods of teaching the various branches. This work should be done in a kindly and sympathetic manner, *yet thoroughly*. Both the Teacher and his pupils should be led to regard the visit of the Inspector as an occasion of real importance. This object will be furthered if great care is taken by the Inspector to ascertain the *average* educational status of the school. It should be borne in mind that effective teaching approves itself by the results which it produces on the school as a whole. The Teacher who is able to secure the advancement of but a fraction of his pupils is a practical failure, and if satisfied with such a state of things, he has but a low conception of his duty.

b. It is believed that a satisfactory estimate of the character of the work done in the *smallest* school or department cannot be obtained in a less period than one hour and thirty minutes. For an ordinary school at least two hours will be required, and in many cases a full half-day will be found necessary. Many—perhaps a majority—of our Teachers are inexperienced. Some are lacking in skill; others in disciplinary powers; others, again, do not faithfully apply themselves to their duties. Now it is as clear as a demonstration, that a mere flying visit to schools in such hands is worse than useless. If no inspection is made, no opinion can be formed nor advice given; and the inexperienced, unskilled, feeble or idle teacher, receiving from the supervisory authority no suggestion or criticism, is simply confirmed in the habits which impair his usefulness.

c. It might be shown that the dignity of the office of inspector of schools is as much at stake in this matter as is the welfare of the schools themselves. The reduction in the number of inspectorships, and the exclusive assignment to the work of inspection of gentlemen believed to be competent therefor, have had respect to both of these objects. Persons accepting the office should understand that, while a thorough semi-annual examination of all the schools, in accordance with these views, is within the reach of the inspector, its accomplishment will involve protracted, and for months almost continuous, absence from home.

[4.] Should the inspector find anything faulty or defective in the teacher's methods of instruction or government, or in the classification and general management of the school, he is advised, with a view to the preservation of the teacher's influence and authority, to reserve his suggestions and cautions for private conference with the teacher, so far as he conveniently can. It will also be his duty, should he find the law and regulations of the Council disregarded in the organization and management of the school, or in respect to school accommodation and surroundings, to call the attention of the trustees or teacher, or both, as the case may require, thereto, that what is amiss or defective may be remedied before it works a forfeiture of public aid to the school.

REGULATION 1. Each Inspector of schools shall on the first day of each month, or as soon thereafter as possible, forward to the Superintendent of Education, according to forms furnished by that officer, an abstract of the inspectorial work of the preceding month.

REGULATION 2. The Inspector shall report to the Superintendent of Education, every case of engagement between a Teacher and Trustees for less than one year, to which he consents (under Subsection 1 of Section 31 of Chapter 29, Revised Statutes, 5th Series, as amended April 30th, 1892,) on the same day on which he gives consent, with the special cause for giving such consent. Under no circumstances shall public moneys be paid either Teachers or Trustees for any days taught prior to such date of consent.

## TEACHERS.

### Comment.

The attention of teachers and trustees is specially called to the necessity of complying with the provisions of the law in relation to the disposal of the County Fund. It appears from the school returns that in some cases teachers have, in their agreements with trustees in respect to salary, *assumed all risk as to the amount to be received from the County Fund*. Such proceeding is contrary to the provisions of the law, and directly subversive of a most important principle of the school system, since the pecuniary penalty imposed upon the inhabitants of the section by the absence and irregular attendance of pupils is thereby in-