

Would to God that all their counsels had been followed! I notice in one of Dr. Meilleur's circulars, dated the 20th September 1851, the following passages:

"The School Inspectors, according to the true intent of the Law will visit all the schools in operation in the School Municipalities comprised within the limits of their respective jurisdictions, will make themselves acquainted with the state of Primary Education, and report thereon in a manner as clear and precise as possible to the Superintendent of Education.

1. To this end, the School Inspectors, named by virtue of the aforesaid Act, will carefully ascertain the number of Schools held under the control of the education laws, the number of children attending them, the morality and literary qualifications of the Teachers in charge of these Schools, specifying those who have passed and examination before one of the Boards of Examiners, and those who have not yet passed this examination; specifying the Schools which are kept by men, and those which are kept by women, married or single, specifying also the age, and the degree of instruction of the Teachers, and the kinds of Schools which they keep.

2. The Inspectors will classify the Schools they visit, according to their kind, the Teachers according to their qualifications, and the kind of Schools kept by them, and the children frequenting such Schools, according to their age and proficiency.

3. The Inspectors will also specify, whether the Schools are held under the control of the School Commissioners, or under that of the Dissenting Trustees.

4. The Inspectors will specify also the branches of instruction taught in each kind of School, the books which are in use, and the method of instruction followed;

5. The Inspectors will also inquire into the number of independent Schools, and, as far as they able, furnish an account of them in the manner above prescribed relative to Schools held under control.

6. In order to place the Department of Public Instruction in a condition to render a general statement of the education of the country, the Inspectors will endeavour to obtain simultaneously all possible information respecting the different institutions which are not subject to the law of Primary Schools. I hope that the persons who have the direction of those Institutions will cheerfully lend themselves to the desire I entertain on this head to respond to the expectation of the friends of education, by giving Inspectors the details necessary to this end.

7. The Inspectors will ascertain the number of School Districts in each School Municipality, the number of children who reside in them, and who are of age to attend these schools.

8. The Inspectors will also ascertain the manner in which the School Moneys have been divided between the School Districts, and how expended.

9. The Inspectors will in all cases examine the engagement and the Daily Journal of every Teacher, and the interior arrangement of the School house, and will name that which best secures the comfort and health of the children.

10. The Inspectors will examine the Assessment Roll for the Schools in each School Municipality,—the School Funds, both local and legislative, placed at the disposal of the School Secretary Treasurers,—their Account Books,—their Debts, and the Engagements which they have made with the School Commissioners, as well as the amount, and Deed of surety.

11. The Inspectors will ascertain the amount of active and passive Debts of the Commissioners of Schools, and of the means they have at their disposal to acquit the one and call in the other.

12. The Inspectors will specify if the Debts contracted by the Commissioners are due for the salary of Teachers, for the building of school houses, or for any other object in the interest of education.

13. The Inspectors will visit all the School houses built under the control of the Commissioners of Schools, or of the Dissident Trustees, as well as the lands upon which they are situated; they will specify those lands which are susceptible of Horticulture, and will give their advice as to the best means of improving their condition so as to render them as salubrious, agreeable and profitable as possible.

14. To obtain this, the Inspectors will recommend order and cleanliness throughout, and the planting of fruit and forest trees as far as the nature and extent of the lands will permit.

15. The Inspectors will indicate also what buildings should be erected upon the School lands for the benefit of the morals

of the children attending them, and for domestic comfort.

16. The Inspectors will examine into the causes, if there be any, which have fettered or obstructed the working of the Educational laws, indicating whether they have sprung from the negligence or the incapacity of the School Commissioners to fulfill the duties which devolve upon them, or from the opposition offered to the Law, stating also the cause of this opposition, and the best mode to remove for the future these causes or this opposition.

17. The Inspectors must use the greatest circumspection in the discharge of their various duties, and, especially, in cases where they are called upon to decide disputes between the School Commissioners and the Secretary-Treasurers, between the School Commissioners and the Teachers, and, above all, between the School Commissioners and the Contributors; the must be guided only by principles of the strictest equity, and, whenever it is possible, consult the wishes of the majority in the well understood interests of education. It would be advisable for them also to consult the Local Visitors of the Schools, and thus to form with them a species of tribunal of arbitration.

18. The various duties of the School Inspectors are of a very delicate and important nature, and, if they are faithfully performed, much good must from them. Besides the statistical information required from the Inspectors, it is expected that they will do their utmost to render the Law popular, in endeavouring to show the people the great advantages the cannot fail to derive from it. They will use every occasion to dispel the prejudices which yet exist in certain parts of the country against the School Law.

19. The most important part of the work of the Inspector will be to convince the School Commissioners, that the Contract Schools which have been established in some of the School Municipalities, cause great loss of time to the children who frequent them, and the waste of the money which the Government and parents pay to maintain them, for the children can make no progress in such Schools. Nothing, moreover, contributes so much to keep up the prejudices of Contributors against the School Law. Our children, the say, have been to School for two or three years, and yet they can neither read nor write, nor do accurately the simplest sum. The parents conclude correctly that they have paid all their money for nothing, and throw upon the Law all the blame which ought to fall upon the School Commissioners who have not known how to administer it properly.

20. The Inspectors then must insist with the School Commissioners, that they establish good Schools in all the districts, and endeavour to prove to them that a Teacher not fully qualified is always dearly paid, while they cannot make too great efforts and sacrifices to remunerate sufficiently good Teachers, for the progress of the children more than compensates for the difference of salary of these Teachers.

21. The Inspectors will endeavour to see that as much uniformity as possible be shewn in the method of teaching and in the choice of books, and, among other methods of imparting instruction, will recommend the use in the Schools of the black board and of maps and globes.

22. As Public Libraries are one of the best means of spreading popular instruction, it will be the duty of the Inspectors to recommend their establishment every where, upon as broad and advantageous a plan as possible.

23. The Inspectors must not fail to make known the importance of maintaining a Model School in all places where the population is large enough to require such a School, and where the subscribers are able to defray the expenses of it."

Is it possible, gentlemen, to peruse again the foregoing instructions without pain to the feelings? They were drawn up in 1851—more than a quarter of a century since—and we have not yet succeeded in securing objects which they insist on! The sanitary requirements of school houses; who, in the country parts, troubles himself about them? The "cheap contract school houses," are they not still those which are most in vogue? Doubtless, your mission is chiefly to "make the law popular", that is to say, to spread among the people sound ideas in respect of Public Instruction. Doubtless, you are bound to oversee carefully the internal organization of schools, to extol good methods, good books, good equipments and applian-