

qualified persons a County Board of Examiners, of whom a County Inspector must be one; and the Council will, of course, before appointing any person as Examiner, satisfy itself that such person possesses the certificate above specified, since, in case a County Council should appoint any persons on the Board of Examiners who do not possess the legal qualification, it would vitiate the constitution and acts of such Board.

4. But the Act requires that each Board of Examiners shall include a County Inspector, and also provides, in the third section, that "The qualifications of County, City or Town Inspectors shall, from time to time, be prescribed by the Council of Public Instruction, which shall determine the time and manner of examination of candidates for certificates of qualification, and grant certificates of qualification; and no one not holding such certificate of qualification shall be eligible to be appointed an Inspector."

According to the requirements of the statute, the Council of Public Instruction has prescribed the qualifications of County Inspectors as follows:—

"All County and City Superintendents of Common or Public Schools who have held that office consecutively for three years; all teachers of Public Schools who have obtained or who shall obtain first-class Provincial certificates of qualifications of the highest grade (A); all Head Masters of Grammar or High Schools, who have taught the same school three years, and who shall prepare and transmit to the Education Department a satisfactory thesis on the organization and discipline of Public Schools; and all graduates who have proceeded regularly to their degrees in any University in the British Dominions, and who have taught in a college or school not less than three years, and who shall prepare and transmit to the Education Department a satisfactory thesis on the organization and discipline of Public Schools, shall be considered legally qualified for the office of County Inspector of Public Schools, without any further examination, on their obtaining, in each case, from the Education Department, the certificate required by law."

5. But for any one of the above four classes of persons specified as possessing the legal qualifications for the office of County Inspector, to be eligible for appointment to that office, it will be necessary for him to procure from the Education Department, and present to the County Council, the certificate of his qualification required by the statute.

6. It has been my intention in recommending these provisions of the new School Act, and it is my wish, that the office of County Inspector should, as far as possible, be filled by meritorious common school teachers, who, by their labor, skill and acquirements, have or shall have obtained the first rank in their profession. But at present the only class of common school teachers who possess first-class Provincial certificates of qualification are those who have attended the Normal School. I think, therefore, no permanent appointment of County Inspectors should be made before the Public School teachers at large shall have had an opportunity, by examination, of obtaining a first-class, grade A, Provincial certificate of qualification. This can be done by the County Councils at their June meeting appointing Inspectors from the three classes of persons, now legally qualified, for six months only—say from the 1st of July to the 31st of December, 1871; and then at their next January meetings the County Councils can, from the lists of qualified persons to be furnished them by the Education Department, make their selections and appointments of County Inspectors with a view

to permanency. In this way due consideration will be given to the profession of Public School teachers; the new School Act, with the new programmes of school classification and discipline, will be brought into full operation immediately after the July vacation; and the Councils will have time to obtain all needful information to enable them, at the beginning of next year, to make the best selection of County Inspectors to give effect to the school system in the new organization of the Public Schools.

7. It is important that each County Clerk (as provided in the fifty-fifth section of the Consolidated School Act) should inform me, immediately after the meeting of the County Council, of the name and address of each County Inspector appointed, that I may know to whom to address the Examination Papers of Teachers, as the first examination should take place not later than July.

8. The sixteenth section of the new School Act invests the County Council with important powers, by the appointment of a careful and impartial committee, for the settlement of the many questions of complaint and dispute arising out of the formation of school sections—questions for the investigation and settlement of which the law has heretofore made no provision.

9. The mode of appointing Trustees of Grammar or High Schools by County, Town and Village Municipal Councils is unchanged by the new School Act; but the powers of the Boards of High School Trustees are made the same in respect to supporting High Schools as are the other Boards of Trustees in respect to the support of Public Schools; so that the chief reason for the union of High and Public School Boards in past years no longer exists. A more equitable and comprehensive mode of providing for the support of High Schools is also made by the new School Act, apart from the High School building, which must be wholly provided by the Town, Village or School division within which the High School is situated; and the fortieth section of the Act makes it the duty of the County Council to prescribe the limits of each existing High School District. Under the new organization, High Schools will have much more important work to do in respect to higher English education than the Grammar Schools have ever performed.

10. I confidently trust the important powers and duties which the new School Act confers and enjoins upon County Councils will be exercised and discharged with the same intelligence, impartiality and patriotism which have characterized their proceedings during the last twenty years.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your faithful servant,

E. RYERSON.

II.—TO TRUSTEES OF RURAL SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.  
GENTLEMEN,

The new School Act, which provides that "All Common Schools shall hereafter be designated and known as Public Schools," confers upon Trustees of School Sections great addi-