

At the commencement of our school organization the great difficulty was to secure male and female teachers, and when a young man or girl manifested a desire to enter the career of teaching we were too well pleased with his good will to discuss his competency, we hastened to grant a certificate. But times have changed; the number of those who wish to devote themselves to teaching is amply sufficient for the needs of the country, and, on the other hand, the means of becoming instructed and prepared to teach school are numerous and within the reach of every one. There is now no reason to be indulgent; there is no reason now to look for number, it is the quality that now must be looked to.

I take the liberty of drawing the attention of the Legislature to the regulations concerning examinations, adopted by the Protestant Committee of the Council of Public Instruction, at its meeting in the month of August last. I think they are of a nature to introduce a reform which is now found to be necessary.

TEACHERS' SALARIES.

I must again, this year, mention the question of teachers' salaries. It is admitted by every one that the teaching class is not sufficiently remunerated, but the difficulty is to find a means to remedy this evil. After having found from year to year that the municipalities are unwilling to increase the salaries, the Inspectors nearly all agree in saying that it is necessary that the *minimum* of salaries to be given to male and female teachers should be established by a law.

What will this *minimum* figure be? This question should be easily solved, once we were agreed that a figure should be fixed.

GENERAL INSPECTORS.

In 1873, when Minister of Public Instruction, I asked for the appointment of general inspectors, whose duty would consist in watching and directing the work of ordinary inspectors. This would be a true reorganization of the system.

The Legislature seems to have taken one step in this direction, by compelling the person wishing to be appointed inspector to pass an examination before a special board. I hope it will not stop there.

GRANT TO COMMON SCHOOLS.

The Council of Public Instruction again asks this year that the common school grant be raised to \$200,000. The intention of the Council need not be explained; it is to give all its attention to primary education, which has in the past been too much neglected for superior education.

Primary instruction is that in which the greatest number are educated, and I am fully persuaded that the Legislature is well disposed to favor, as much as possible, in the distribution of public money, the great mass of the people. It will thus be sufficient for me to mention the request of the Council to have it find favor with the Government and the members of the Legislature.

OUR NORMAL SCHOOLS.

The building of the new Jacques Cartier Normal School is about being completed. It will be, at least I hope so, an edifice worthy of the City of Montreal—worthy of the Province of Quebec.

Our McGill Normal School was considerably repaired;

but there is still much to be done before it will answer the intentions of its founders and the continual increasing wants of our age.

As to the Laval Normal School, the necessity of rebuilding it is being every year more and more felt. The pupils have no yard or garden; the garden which they cultivated and kept up was taken from them, and they are now obliged to take their recreation in public places. This state of things should cease, as it is no longer tolerable—if it must exist it will menace the existence of the school. The people of Quebec are interested in the maintenance of this school, but if there is nothing done to give it what is strictly required, they must not be surprised if other arrangements will be made which will deprive them of it.

CODIFICATION OF THE SCHOOL LAW.

The reforms which I mentioned above, and those which the friends of education have for several years required, will necessarily be a special study of the commission for the codification of the Provincial laws, which has now been some time at work.

If I may be allowed to express a wish on this point, it is this: that the commission should resolutely enter into the way of reform and should consequently strike at the root of all abuses, if I may be allowed the expression.

NEW INSPECTORS.

At its last meeting the Catholic Committee of the Council of Public Instruction recommended the appointment of six new inspectors, of whom four are for newly created districts, and the Government has made the appointments.

These six inspectors passed the preliminary examination.

The formation of new districts of inspection should have good results. It will allow of a more complete inspection and more frequent visiting of the schools, and thus contribute to make the law more efficient.

INSPECTORS' REPORTS.

I have now only to state that I have this year published the inspectors' reports, not by extracts but wholly and textually. I thought that by so doing I would comply with the desire of those who wish to have a clear knowledge of the work of the inspectors and with the intention of the law and the regulations of the Council, which required them to give many more details now of the schools than in the past.

I have the honor, &c.

GÉDÉON OUIMET,
Superintendent.

MISCELLANY.

A few words on female education.—Give your daughters a thorough education. Teach them to prepare a nourishing diet. Teach them to wash, to iron, to darn stockings, to sew on buttons, to make their own dresses. Teach them to bake bread, and that a good kitchen lessens the apothecary's account. Teach them that one dollar is one hundred cents, that one only lays up money whose expenses are less than his income, and that all grow poor who have to spend more than they receive. Teach them that a calico dress paid for fits better than a silken one unpaid for. Teach them that a full