

school section or into the manner in which any Township Treasurer may have discharged his trust in respect to the school moneys coming into his hands.

SUGGESTION II.—SCHOOL INSPECTORS.—That School Inspectors, each to have charge in one or two counties, be appointed and paid by the Government, for which the Education Department shall be held responsible.

REMARKS UPON THE ABOVE.

The present Superintendents, dependent as they are for their office, upon the annual vote of a body of men, most of whom are uneducated, can never fulfil the office of School Inspector. Very few of them, (if we except the Clergymen who have accepted the appointment,) are themselves educated beyond the mere elements of learning; and though the clergy of the different denominations of the country, are, undoubtedly the best qualified as a class, for that office of any other; yet but few even of them, however devoted much particular attention to the subject of elementary instruction, and fewer still have had any experience in actual teaching. Besides, when they accept an appointment as Township Superintendent, they do it without any intention of remitting, to any extent, the duties of their sacred and principal calling; so that it cannot be expected that they can enter upon any new course of studies, or apply much time or thought for preparation for those, which they regard as their subordinate duties. They may visit and examine the schools under their charge at the proper times,—they may mark the varying amounts of success which follow the efforts of different teachers, but they cannot lead the more defective among them to the adoption of better methods which they themselves do not understand, nor ingraft upon imperfect systems of school management and instruction improvements of which they have never informed themselves. And how much less efficient must be the services in this department of the large number of busy citizens—farmers, mechanics, shop-keepers, &c., who are at present found in the office; many of them with only the plainest education, and most of them deeply engaged in business enterprises that require for their management their undivided attention.

These men, from their residence in the Townships of their charge, and their consequent intimate acquaintance with the people, as well as from their general business habits, may be, and doubtless are, very well qualified to take charge of the financial affairs, and look after the mere secular concerns of the schools; but to expect from them the discharge of those higher and much more important duties belonging to the office of school Inspectors, that they should be able to investigate, and at a glance, to analyse the character of the schools they visit,—to detect any defect that might exist in their organization, discipline or government, or in the character or manner of the instruction given in them, to point it out with distinctness and precision, and to propose and commend the more excellent way,—to acquire an easy and admitted ascendancy with the Teachers, and to inspire them with a noble ambition to excellence in their profession,—in short, to conciliate, to influence, and rightly to guide the schools, the school authorities and corporations:—to expect that the present Township Superintendents would be able to accomplish all this were as absurd as it would be unjust. Yet all this and much more, ought to be required of our school Inspectors, and a class of men should be found, at least sought for to fill that station, possessing qualities equal to the high demands to be made upon them.

To adopt the language of the late Commissioner of Primary Instruction in Holland to M. Cousin in 1836, as quoted in your "Report on a system of Public Elementary Instruction for Upper Canada,"—which will form the most appropriate conclusion to these suggestions. "Be careful in the choice of your Inspectors: They are men, who ought to be sought for with a lantern in the hand."

SUGGESTION III.—SCHOOL SITES, &c.—That in school sections where it may be necessary to erect a school house, the Teachers be required to locate the same in the most central or convenient part of the section. That they be authorised to enter upon land for that purpose, taking for a school site not less than one, nor more than five acres, (in rural sections.) That those school sites already secured and occupied, which consist of less than one acre be immediately enlarged so as to comprehend, at least one acre, that in taking or enlarging a school site the Trustees shall tender to the proprietor such an amount as they shall think an equivalent for said land, to be decided by arbitration mutually chosen in cases of difference.

That no school house shall hereafter be erected at the public expence until the plan shall have been submitted to and approved by the County Inspectors, nor unless there shall be included in the same contract, a woodshed and two separate privies, with two separate enclosed yards.

SUGGESTION IV.—LAW PROCEEDINGS.—That no Court of Law, whatever, shall have any authority in cases arising out of the administration of the school law, but that all such questions shall be settled, decided, and carried into effect exclusively by the officers and agents of the Department.

SUGGESTION V.—GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.—That at least half the Trustees be appointed by the County Municipal Council. That all examinations be public. That the trustees shall have power to appoint master and assistants and for good reasons, to discharge them, to fix their salaries, and define the course of instruction to be pursued. All fees to be paid to Trustees, who shall apply them in payment of the salaries of Teachers and providing school requisites. All balances to be made good by the County Municipal Council. Pupils to be admitted only by examination in presence of the Trustees. The examination to comprise reading, writing, arithmetic, English grammar and geography, the elements of none of which branches shall be taught in the grammar school. Exhibitions on Scholarship of £20 each, (one each for the smaller Townships and two each for those Townships which are entitled to Deputy Reeves,) shall be established and maintained by said Township respectively to be presented by the County Inspector, with the approbation of the Township Superintendent and Reeve, to the most deserving boys, besides whom the same number may be admitted free, upon the same authority. Trustees may form a class of pupils in attendance at common schools, to receive instruction at fixed times each week in the grammar school. A female department should be at once added to every grammar school, to be subject to the same regulations, modified only to suit the circumstances.

From the Rev. W. F. Clarke, Local Superintendent of North Dorchester and Westminster, London.

SCHOOL INSPECTION.—I beg to suggest as an improvement in the present School Act, the appointment of Superintendents for entire Counties, or such portions of Counties as may be sufficient to occupy the entire attention of a single individual; that such Superintendents be appointed from some other quarter than from the County Councils, that, as far as may be, practical educationists be appointed to the office, and that such a remuneration be given as shall encourage persons of high intellectual ability to accept such appointments.

Some of the reasons which prompt these suggestions, and some of the advantages that would attend their adoption, are the following:—

1. It is notorious that from personal and local considerations, many incompetent persons are appointed, under the present system, to this important office.

2. When an individual holds the office for a single township, the remuneration is so inadequate that, unless a deep interest is felt in our Schools, the duties of the office will be but very imperfectly performed.

3. Superintendents would thus have a wider influence, command more of public respect, and effect more in behalf of our Schools.

4. The additional outlay required to make up an adequate compensation, would be amply repaid in the increased efficiency of the Schools.

To this I would add the suggestion that such Superintendents should be instructed to form Teachers' Institutes, and to give instruction to them, by way of lectures or otherwise.

From William Rath, Esq., Local Superintendent for the County of Huron, Mitchell.

I may state in commencing that I have a high opinion of the School Act as a whole: it is sound in principle, and full in its details, yet capable of improvement in this latter respect.

1. **ABSENTEE LANDHOLDERS.**—The language employed in the 9th clause of the 11th section has led many to think that a Section tax levied by Trustees, can only apply to residents;—there is a numerous class of people that are neither *freeholders* nor *householders*, viz., *absentee leaseholders*. The term *rateable or taxable property* as used in the 17th section is the proper one, the same terms should be used in both sections.

2. **ALTERING SCHOOL SITES.**—The power of Township Councils to alter School Sections is still a matter of dispute, notwithstanding your re-