

The time occupied by the Inspectors in their visit to a great number of the schools has been a quarter of an hour, or half an hour.

There is no uniformity in the books, and there are often no books.

The teaching varies and changes according to the teachers. There is no method; and the teachers complain that each child brings a different book to school.

There is no management. To do as one pleases is the dominant principle of the whole organisation.

The facts above elicited establish the real state of elementary education, and at the same time indicate the causes which retard it and make it stationary. The working of a law enacted with a view of instructing the people, can only be efficient if directed by men more or less educated. It is impossible for instruction to be serious and progressive where the teachers are perfectly incompetent. So many female teachers of tender years, cannot impart a sufficient and suitable education.

Some School Inspectors thus express themselves on the qualifications of the teachers and the state of education in their districts:

*Mr. Lanctot.*—"Skilful teachers are to be met with, but they are scarce."

*Mr. Bruce.*—"The teachers, as a body, are disqualified, and much below Common School teachers."

*Mr. Césaire Germain.*—"Some years will yet elapse before the law works, for want of teachers."

*Mr. P. Hubert.*—"Education is backward, and more than three-fourths of the female and male teachers are disqualified."

*Mr. Jean Crépaut*, after having established that out of 75 schools, 57 are kept by women, adds:—"The three-fourths of the Commissioners are incapable of performing their duty."

*Mr. Tanguay.*—"There are hundreds of schools in which the children have only learnt, during seven or eight years, to read unintelligibly,—idleness, and sometimes a precocious demoralization. The people who judge by what they see, seeing nothing, have condemned the system. Indifference has succeeded to opposition. People confine themselves to the strict letter of the law to destroy the law."

*Dr. Consigny* establishes the incapacity of the teachers and the Commissioners, and the little progress that has been made, but hopes that a change will take place for the better.

And with some exceptions, such is the declaration of all the School Inspectors.

The clergy are nearly unanimous in affirming that our School system does not work with success. Out of 140 *curés*, 20, only, declare themselves more or less satisfied with the schools established in their parishes; all the others have unequivocally expressed their condemnation thereof, and with sentiments of regret, becoming men who are sincere friends to education.

The Committee, in specially recommending these answers to the attention of the public, think it proper at the same time to submit some of the opinions expressed by the clergy:

*Messire Ls. Proulx.*—In the circle in which I am placed, the system of primary instruction does not work regularly and with the desired success, notwithstanding the efforts of honorable and enlightened men.

1. Because there is a contradiction between the principle of the law and the means by which it is put into execution. It is coercive, and its working is confided to the very persons against whom it is enacted.

2. Because the Government has not used its authority in causing the immediate execution of that law. The Superintendent, not receiving the required