

ry teachers in those which cannot engage teachers, very great facilities will be afforded to poor districts in establishing schools. *Thirdly*—The salary of the teacher is to be raised, not as now, for the purpose of educating a portion of the children of the district, but for all the children of the district, unless these be sufficiently numerous to require two schools; and thus, for the sums which they may raise, the people will receive a much greater and more general amount of benefit than at present. *Fourthly*—The trustees have power to raise any amount of salary agreed on by a meeting of the district, or if none be agreed on, two thirds of the sum stated in their annual estimate. *Fifthly*—In poor districts persons subscribing or assessed by the district meeting, may settle with the teacher instead of the collector, or, in other words, may pay in produce. *Sixthly*—The sum required after the payment of a county tax will be much smaller than that needed at present; and being raised on a broader basis, will fall much more lightly on those who are now most heavily burthened to support the schools; and such persons being directly interested in the schools; will be willing cheerfully to bear this lighter load for the same reasons that now induce them to bear the heavier.

These considerations, in connection with the better management of the school affairs by the Trustees which must obtain under the new law, appear sufficient to ensure that the salaries of teachers will become better and more certain in proportion to the large amount of work required of them under a free school system. It is perfectly evident that the school attendance will be very largely increased, and that the facilities for the education of the children of the poor, and for keeping up schools in poor districts will be very much greater than now.

One question yet remains: to what extent will the number of schools be increased? This question cannot be answered with great precision. We know, however, that in the present districts, each teacher instructs on the average twenty-one children, though he might teach forty or fifty quite as effectually. Now, since in the present districts there are on the average 58 children, it is evident that the school attendance might be doubled without increasing the number of schools. On the other hand, many districts now vacant would establish schools, and it is of course desirable that they should do so. It is, however, also true that many districts now have too many small schools, which, under the clause which allows only one school for every fifty children, would

be united into single large schools. On the whole, there seems good reason to believe that the number of pupils might readily be doubled, without such an increase of the number of schools as would tend to diminish the salaries of teachers.

If Assessment be determined on at all, it is to be hoped that to a certain extent, it may be made compulsory. If left to the decision either of counties or districts, it must either remain inoperative like the assessment provision of the present law, or give rise to party divisions on the subject, destructive to the interests of the schools. These evils appear to be well guarded against by the arrangements in the present bill, which makes assessment directly compulsory to an amount sufficient greatly to improve the schools, yet not so large as to be very burdensome, and indirectly induces or compels the supplementing of the teacher's salary by the action of the trustees in the district.

School Inspection.

The next of the new provisions that claims attention is that for District inspection. School inspection by an officer or officers appointed for the purpose, is but of recent origin in Nova Scotia, though, not in many other countries. Under the operation of the present law, the Superintendent has in two years personally visited about 500 schools, or about one half of the schools actually in operation. He remarks on this subject in his report for 1850, "An annual examination of the schools by the Superintendent is obviously impracticable, and anything short of this cannot give the full results of a system of inspection. The time which I could allot to each school was also shorter than I could have desired. Notwithstanding these difficulties however, I am convinced that the partial inspection of the past summer has been beneficial. In nearly every school some useful information could be imparted or received, or something done to stimulate parents or teachers, and I have generally found a readiness to act as far as practicable on the suggestions given. Disputes and differences have also been arranged, and advice given which may lead to better management of the affairs of the schools. Even the mere liability to inspection, or its possible occurrence, in some cases produces good effects."

The schools of this Province are by no means permanent institutions, their attendance perpetually ebbs and flows in a sort of semi-annual tide. Their teachers migrate. They are opening and closing at all seasons. These causes would render inefficient the labors of even two, three, or four general inspectors. The only method that can secure an actual annual inspection, is that of *County or District inspectors acting under a general head.*"

On this view is based the provision for district inspectors in the present bill. There is to be one for each Commissioners' district, to visit each school annually, and examine and report on it, under forms furnished by the Superintendent, and to be paid at the rate of 5s per visit. These Inspectors are similar in their duties to the County and Township Superintendents in Upper Canada and New York, and the School visitors of Connecticut. Let us see how the scheme works in those countries. In Canada the local Superintendents are appointed either for Counties or for one or more Townships. Some Counties have as many as five or six Superintendents. They are required to visit each school four times in the year, to lecture on education, and to perform many of the duties in regard to the distribution of monies, &c. which are performed in this Province by Commissioners and their clerks. Their remuneration is 20s. annually for each school under their jurisdiction, unless a larger sum be voted to them by the County Municipality. The remuneration proposed in Nova Scotia may be estimated to be a little higher than that in Canada, the work being in Nova Scotia about one fifth of that in Canada, and the payment one fourth. The Canadian Report for 1850 shows that clergymen and other professional men, form the bulk of the Canadian inspectors, and the extracts given from their reports afford a very favorable impression of their qualifications. It is probable that there would be no difficulty in securing the services of similar men in this country.

In the instructions given to the district Superintendents in Canada by the Chief Superintendent (which are very full), they are required to examine the schools in relation to their "Mechanical arrangements—Means of instruction—Organisation—Discipline—Method of instruction—Attainments of pupils." In reference to the results on the Schools, the report says:—"The interest awakened, and the moral influence brought to bear by means of these visits in behalf of the schools, cannot be easily estimated." In New York and Connecticut similar testimony is borne to the utility of the system, and in Great Britain a method very similar in its nature has recently been acted on. It is true that in New York the system of county inspection was omitted in the last School Act (though that for Township inspection was retained),* on the alleged ground of party influence in the appointments. This evil is guarded against in Upper Canada by vesting the power of appointment in the County Corporations, and in the Bill now before the House, by giving the ap-

* The Township Inspectors formerly acted under the County Superintendent.