

pointed by the Government. In nearly all the States of the Union there are County Superintendents who are nothing but Inspectors under the jurisdiction of the Superintendent-General of the State. In England, although there is, properly speaking, no system of public instruction, regularly organized at the expense of the State, the inspection of schools is considered an object of the highest importance, and the sum of £40,000 sterling is annually devoted to pay for it, being a very considerable portion of the appropriation for public instruction. In New Brunswick a system of inspection has recently been established, and in Nova Scotia the Superintendent of Education insists on the appointment of Inspectors, and declares that it is impossible to make the system work without these important auxiliaries. The following extract from the report of Mr. Forester, on this head will interest the reader:

"Without Inspectors" he says, "it is impossible for me to acquit myself of my duties; and the labor of my office would exceed my powers, moral and physical. Moreover, by delaying the appointment of those officers a large portion of my usefulness is destroyed. It is an acknowledged fact that many countries in Europe are unable to dispense with their services. There is more reason to consider them as indispensable in this country, where the means of communication between the various localities scattered over the country are much more rare. Their duties are of two kinds: 1. The diffusion throughout the most remote settlements of a knowledge of the various laws relating to public instruction, and the execution of the orders issued from time to time by the Superintendent. 2. The excitement of emulation among the ratepayers of the places which they visit, and the consequent promotion of the interests of education."

"In Upper Canada there are not less than 300 Inspectors. They are paid by the municipalities, and the appointment of them is entrusted to the municipal authorities. Their salaries vary from \$4 to \$6 for each visit to a school.

"Independently of all other considerations, it is evident that in the present state of the municipal system of Lower Canada it would be impossible to secure the efficient inspection of schools under such an arrangement. Moreover, it appears to me very doubtful in principle whether the officer who should control the direction exercised by the Commissioners and Trustees over the schools, ought to be appointed and paid by any local authority rather than by the Department of Public Instruction.

"What remains to be done, therefore, is, as I suggested in a former Report, to reduce the excessive extent of the districts of inspection, and, as often as may be practicable, to appoint men to be Inspectors who have been teachers. This measure would necessarily involve an increase of expense, but on this head, as on many others, we must be content to represent to the Legislature and the Government what we say every day to the rate-payers: that it is better to spend a little more and obtain a result, than to spend a small amount to no purpose. Moreover we might organize new districts, so as to render an effective inspection of all the schools twice in the year physically possible. This arrangement would not require more than six or seven additional Inspectors, and a part of their salaries might be derived from a slight deduction from the salaries of those Inspectors whose districts may have been diminished in a considerable degree, and the latter would be gainers by the change.

"It would then become very easy to regulate the length of the visits, and the forms to be observed in making them; and, in short, to prescribe to the Inspectors a mode of proceeding from which they could not deviate. In other countries the Inspector is bound to draw up a *procès-verbal* of his visits during its continuance. This is countersigned by the teacher and by those persons who represent the local authorities, and who are bound to attend. The Government functionary can receive his salary only on the production of all the *procès-verbaux*.

"It would be necessary, in this country, to compel School Commissioners and their Secretary-Treasurers, by a penalty, to attend the Inspectors in their visits. It may be seen, by the Reports of the latter, that they have the greatest difficulty in obtain-

ing the attendance of Commissioners and Trustees, and even in finding them together, so as to procure from them the necessary explanations, and to convey to them the advice which is needful to guide them in the performance of their duties.

"Teachers ought, all other things being equal, to be preferred to all other candidates, and when the Normal Schools shall have been longer in operation, it would be just to provide that the office of Inspector shall be given to none but professors and teachers of a certain number of years standing. This would be one of the most powerful means of procuring and retaining the services of young persons of merit as teachers, and of securing functionaries who will attend exclusively to their duties."

The Government acted upon the suggestion contained in this report, and all the Inspectors appointed after that date, with the exception of two, have been old teachers. These two exceptions were made in favor of Mr. Thomas McCord, Advocate, appointed Inspector for the Counties of Ottawa and Pontiac, and Mr. William Hamilton, Merchant, appointed to replace Mr. McCord, for the Protestant part of that district only. A perfect knowledge of both languages, the general esteem of those who were to be under his authority, both Protestants and Catholics, and legal knowledge, valuable in a new district containing many poor and backward localities, were the grounds which caused Mr. McCord's appointment to be decided upon. He, however, very soon perceived that with so small a salary, and being subject to heavy travelling expenses, he could not on the one hand entirely give up the practice of his profession, nor, on the other, follow it profitably without failing to do justice to his new duties, and of his own accord he honorably tendered his resignation. He was replaced in the Catholic part of his inspection district (the Protestants having asked for a separation, which was immediately granted them) by Mr. Rouleau, who was at the time a teacher at the Aylmer Catholic Academy; he had been formerly a pupil at the Laval Normal School and holds an Academy diploma, which he obtained at that institution; and in the Protestant part, as I have just said, by Mr. Hamilton.

Other Inspectors having resigned their office, several vacancies occurred, in addition to those resulting from deaths. The following teachers have accordingly been promoted to the office of Inspector:

Mr. Leroux, for the Counties of Bagot, Rouville and St. Hyacinth; Mr. Boivin, (formerly a pupil of the Laval Normal School, at which he obtained a Model School diploma) for the Counties of Saguenay and Charlevoix; Mr. Giondin, for the Counties of Beauharnais, Laprairie and Chateauguay; Mr. Hubbard, for the Counties of Stanstead, Richmond, Compton and Wolf; Mr. Caron, for the Counties of Napierville, Iberville and St. Johns; Mr. Juneau (Model School Teacher, attached to the Laval Normal School) for the Counties of Lévis and Dorchester) Mr. Béchard, for the County of Gaspé. The latter has been promoted to the offices of French Corresponding Clerk, Librarian to this Department and Assistant Editor of the *Journal de l'Instruction Publique*. Mr. Tremblay, also a teacher, has succeeded Mr. Béchard.

In other words, within the space of four years no less than nine teachers have been promoted to the office of Inspector, one of them being subsequently called to fill an office in this Department. As there were already among the Inspectors five former teachers, the number of those who have experience in imparting instruction now amounts to 13 out of 27.

All the new Inspectors, taken from the class of teachers, have performed their task in a satisfactory manner; and if some of them have made enemies, it has perhaps resulted from excess of zeal, but most probably from the impartiality and firmness with which they have fulfilled their duty. I may remark that their activity and ability have been appreciated by those who are the best qualified to judge of them. On several occasions I have received, both from the clergy and from Members of Parliament and from teachers in their respective districts, the most flattering testimony respecting them. They have all, without an exception, regularly travelled through their inspection districts; they have visited the schools intrusted to their care; they have promulgated