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CIRCULAR TO PUBLIC SCHOOL INSPECTORS IN
REGARD TO COUNTY MODEL SCHOOLS.

TORONTO, 5th July, 1877.

(No. 1.)

I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of the new Regulations in regard to County Model Schools. (See page 87 of this Journal.)

On behalf of the Department, I have to request that you will arrange with the Board of the Public School designated in the Regulations as the temporary Model School for your County, and that you will also confer with the County Council or Warden in reference to such points as are involved in the subsequent permanent establishment of a Model School.

In order that the Candidates who now, without previous experience, succeed in passing the Third Class Examination in Literary Subjects, may have the opportunity of obtaining the necessary professional training required by the regulations, it is of the utmost importance that the Model Schools should be efficiently equipped and ready to go into operation after the Midsummer Vacation.

(CIRCULAR No. 2.)

TORONTO, 20th July, 1877.

In addition to my recent circular in regard to County Model Schools, the Honourable the Pro. Minister of Education desires me further to remark that:—

1. *Organization of County Model Schools.*—The duty of putting into operation the provisional County Model Schools, shall be performed by the Head Masters of the Schools with the advice and under the supervision of the County Inspectors; by whom all the arrangements made shall be approved, subject to the final decision of the Minister. By County Inspectors, in the previous sentence, is to be understood the County Inspector in whose division the Model School is geographically included.

2. The County Inspectors above designated are directed to ascertain without delay, and to inform the Department, whether the Trustees of the Schools that have been selected to perform temporarily the work of County Model Schools, are willing to accept the nomination of their schools for this purpose.

3. In the event of the Trustees of any of the Schools designated being prepared to accept the nomination of their school to serve temporarily as a County Model School, the Trustees and the Head Master are requested to observe that the school will open, for training purposes, on the 27th day of August next.

4. The few days between the opening of the County Model Schools, on the 27th August, for training purposes, and the opening of the Public Schools for their ordinary work, where this occurs at a later date than the 27th August, should be employed by the Head

Master in receiving and enrolling the teachers-in-training, in explaining to them the general character of the work with which they are to be occupied, and in delivering such preliminary instructions as may be necessary or suitable before the children attending the Public Schools are gathered together.

6. The Department has been asked for information as to the apparatus, with which Schools, acting as County Model Schools, must be furnished. For the present year, this must necessarily be left somewhat indeterminable. The Minister, in determining what may suffice for the present year, will be very much guided by the opinion of the County Inspectors.

II. *Inspection of County Model Schools.*—(1). The Minister of Education having intimated his intention to get the work of temporarily inspecting County Model Schools done by the Central Committee, who may assign it to any of their number, the Central Committee have appointed the four members of the Committee, who are Public School Inspectors, as a sub-committee for this purpose.

2. The above-mentioned inspection through a sub-committee of the Central Committee is not intended to interfere in any measure with the authority and rights of Public School Inspectors. Public School Inspectors retain all the powers they have hitherto passed in regard to the oversight of Public Schools. But it is desirable, with a view to possible future arrangements, that the Minister of Education should be in possession of more special and systematized information than could be furnished by the reports of the Public School Inspectors generally. It has, therefore, been decided to make an independent inspectorial visitation of the County Model Schools, with the exclusive object of ascertaining how they are fulfilling their functions as training institutions.

III. *Candidates who shall be admitted into County Model Schools. Cases in which attendance will not be required.*

1. The teachers in training, who shall have the privilege of attending the several schools acting as County Model Schools, for the first and second sessions respectively, shall be selected from candidates fulfilling the prescribed conditions, by the several County Boards of Examiners. While the County Boards, as the parties best acquainted with all the circumstances that should be taken into account, are left to their full discretion in making the selection, it is suggested, that, as a rule, they give the preference to those candidates who have been most successful in passing the non-professional examination for Third-class Certificates.

Not more, however, than twenty-five candidates should be admitted to any Model School without the special concurrence of the County Inspector, for reasons which may appear to him to justify the admission of a larger number.

2. Enquiries have been addressed to the Department as to whether Teachers, who are at present teaching on Permits, and who may succeed in passing the approaching non-professional examination for Third Class Certificates, must attend the County Model Schools, before obtaining a Third Class Certificate. The Minister is of opinion that the just claims of all parties will be best provided for and the least amount of hardship, consistent with the general educational interests of the Province, inflicted on individuals, by leaving the decision of this question in the hands of the County Boards. Should a County Board be of opinion that a teacher, who is at present teaching on a Permit, and who may succeed in passing the approaching non-professional examination for Third Class Certificates, has had an amount of practical experience substantially equivalent to what would be gained by attendance at a County Model School, they may grant a special Third Class Certificate to such teacher. Their action, however, must be reported to the Minister, and must be subject to his approval.

IV. The Minister of Education, in inaugurating the very important change in the system of training teachers to which this Circular refers, invites the friendly co-operation of the Trustees and the Head Masters of the Schools selected to act as County Model Schools. The success of this scheme must depend very much on the intelligence and devotion with which the Masters, in particular, enter on the performance of the responsible duties assigned to them; and it is the earnest request, as it is the confident expectation of the Minister, that these gentlemen, called to undertake a branch of work which must be new to most of them, will prepare themselves for it as thoroughly as possible, and will be zealous in endeavouring to contribute, in this as in any other ways, to the intellectual and moral advancement of the Province.

The Department relies upon your co-operation in successfully carrying out the Regulations on this subject.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
J. GEORGE HODGINS,
Deputy Minister of Education.