

BAD.

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The majority of the municipalities are deficient under heads 3, 6 and 1, *i.e.*, the supply of apparatus, blackboards, maps, etc.; salaries of teachers and method of payment; length and arrangement of the school year.

In the matter of the use of authorized text-books, nearly all the schools are in line.

There are very few schools in which the Course of Study is not followed. I left a copy of the course in every school; also a copy of regulations. I found several schools in which the work was not being carried on according to a specified time-table. In such cases I assisted the teacher to make out a provisional time-table, by means of which her work as well as the pupils' could be carried on systematically.

The condition of the schoolhouses in those municipalities which are classified as excellent, good, middling, is fair. I cannot say much in favor of the school-grounds, as there is not much attention paid to them by the authorities in charge. In the matter of school apparatus the schools in my inspectorate are sadly deficient. Some schools have not a single map upon the walls. One of the essential requisites in teaching school, *viz.*, a blackboard, is not to be found in many schools. I have spoken to the commissioners about these matters, and in many cases I have been assured that suitable blackboards will be placed in all schools under their control.

In several of the municipalities classed "bad" the schoolhouses are old and in a bad condition. There is no apparatus for teaching purposes; the school year is badly divided; salaries of teachers, in some cases, are very low.

How are we to remedy this state of affairs? By an increased grant to the elementary schools. At the present time, on account of the small grant offered, the school inspector has but little power over the commissioners or trustees. He may advise, recommend, report; but in many cases there is no change effected. Now, if the grant were larger, so that the withdrawing of it would be felt, the inspector would have a lever with which he could move a municipality and bring it into line. The large majority of our people receive no other education than that afforded by our elementary schools: hence the necessity of making these schools as efficient as possible.