

ever so high, is not necessarily, even though he may have taught in a school for three years, acquainted with the organization of Public Schools, and with the methods of teaching, which should be followed there. The examination which he passed before receiving a degree, did not extend to these points, while first-class Public School teachers have been examined on them more than once. Where is the hardship then of his being asked to write a thesis showing that he has at least had his attention called to the subject?

I cannot doubt that the resolution of the Council to grant certificates of qualification to those Public School teachers only, who are in the highest grade of the first-class, will meet with the approval of all who are in a position to give an impartial opinion. Apart from the unseemliness of having a school inspected by a gentleman whose certificate might be of an inferior grade to that held by the teacher of the school, the effect of throwing the office of Inspector open to any Public School teacher except those who are at the head of their profession, would be to lower the general character of the office, and so to hinder the attainment of the ends for which County Inspectorships were instituted. We look for great things from the Inspectors. We expect them to be the means of reviving the Public Schools, and advancing them to the highest possible state of efficiency. That they may be able to render such a service, they must be men whom teachers and trustees and ratepayers everywhere will look up to with respect, whose counsel will be sought with confidence, whose approbation will be valued, and for whose blame reverence will be felt; but it would be foolish to expect County Inspectors as a body to answer this description, if persons were admitted to the Inspectorships who were not competent to take a first-class certificate of the highest grade.

Next in importance to the clauses of the School Act establishing County Inspectorships, are those which relate to the examination of teachers.

Scarcely anything has in time past been felt to be a more serious evil, by those who have interested themselves in the working of our educational system, than the want of uniformity in the examination and classification of teachers. When I was Inspector of Grammar Schools, I heard the complaint frequently made, that a candidate who found it difficult to obtain a third-class certificate from one Board might without difficulty get a second or first-class certificate from another. This disparity in the standards set up by different Boards, besides giving rise to numerous cases of individual dissatisfaction, tended to bring down the general standard of qualification, and throw suspicion on the value of the certificates held even by first and second class teachers who had fairly won the position that had been assigned to them. The provisions which the new Act makes, with the view of remedying the evil referred to, are as follows: First-class certificates are henceforth to be given only by the Council of Public Instruction; and second and third-class certificates only by County Boards of Examiners. The papers for second and third-class certificates, as well as