

The news of his death cast a gloom over the institutions.

We tender our heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved.

Inspectors and Inspectorships.

(CONTINUED FROM OUR LAST.)

SECONDLY:—*The system of inspection of our Common Schools is inefficient.*

This Province is divided into a number of inspectorial districts. Generally, each county constitutes an inspectorial district; but, sometimes a county is divided into two districts. Now it is evident to the most casual observer, and it is also well known, that so small a district is not sufficient to occupy the whole time of an Inspector, nor can a competent man be found who would devote his time and energies wholly to the work for the small salary which he would receive. Hence, the necessity of giving the Inspectorship to some gentleman, who, along with his other duties, can devote a portion of his time to inspectorial work. This work is frequently made subsidiary to other interests. Thus it is that gentlemen with no proper and peculiar professional training are put over the teachers. Under the existing system, inspection must necessarily be hasty and imperfect, nor is it theoretically to be expected otherwise; it is the fault of the system. The Inspectors who are performing well their duties are excellent in spite of the system.

How is this defect in our school system to be remedied? Very simply. Let two or three counties be united and form one Inspectorial district. Let these districts be sufficiently large to occupy the whole time and engage the earnest energies of some thoroughly trained teacher. Let him also have a fixed salary. Nova Scotia introduced free schools sooner than New Brunswick, but the latter is anticipating the former in regard to this matter.

Since writing the above, the Report of the Schools of New Brunswick has been placed in my hands. Thorough professional training is there required, both in respect to teachers and inspectors. "It appears to me of the first importance that the Board of Education and the Chief Superintendent be placed at once in a position to prepare for the systematic inspection of a portion of the schools as required by section 13. A popu-

lation of about 40,000 on the average could be efficiently served by one Inspector; where the population is dense, the number would be somewhat greater, and where sparse, less. I respectfully suggest that the Board be empowered to erect from time to time by proclamation in the Royal Gazette, or otherwise, the territory of the Province into not more than seven Divisions for purpose of inspection, and to appoint a qualified Inspector for each Division." Here are the qualifications which will be required of an Inspector, "All candidates for the office of Inspector thereunder, shall have taught for a period of at least three years, and shall have obtained a license of the Grammar School class.... and upon appointment to office each Inspector shall spend one term at the Provincial Normal School, or such time as the Board may require, with a view to a more perfect acquaintance with the method of School management and teaching, to be employed in the schools of the Province."

If this Province should be apportioned into suitable inspectorial districts, then inspection could be wrought up to a far greater degree of perfection, and in proportion as inspection is thorough, appreciative, and discriminating, will the school system be efficient. With professional Inspectors, the teachers would have a kindred feeling; this feeling would be doubly reciprocated and thus there would be a closer drawing together, more harmonious work. The Inspector would be in a better position to direct and counsel, in many ways, his fellow laborers in the noble work of training, of educating the young, in a better position to reward the deserving teachers and the undeserving according to their merits. Priceless are the interests at stake. The Inspectors could also grant valuable aid to Trustees, and he could more easily convene educational meetings since his whole time would be devoted to the work. In fact he would become completely identified with his work and his work completely identified with him. Moreover, would not this mode of inspection increase the *esprit de corps* of the teaching profession in more ways than one? Would it not enhance the standing of the profession?

I can see no valid reason why this desirable change should not be effected speedily. It will not increase the cost of inspection, most probably will lessen the cost, and it will materially increase the efficiency of the school