

Pensions and gratuities.

Teachers.

Every teacher has a right to a pension after twenty-five years' service.¹ It is calculated at the rate of one-half of the highest salary earned during the last six years of office. Towards the pension fund deductions are made from salaries.² Gratuities are given.

INSPECTION.³

Inspection.

The inspection is excellent, although there is no very special feature, except that of lady Inspectors for infant schools. All Inspectors—chief, departmental (“Inspecteurs d’Académie” under the supervision of the chief Inspectors), and primary (“Inspecteurs primaires” under the order of the departmental Inspectors)—are nominated by the Minister; and “are recruited . . . from amongst the masters of elementary schools.”

In each Department there is a departmental Inspector, and as many primary ones as there are divisions, or ridings (“arrondissements”). The Inspectors relatively to the teachers are well paid.⁴ For instance, it is reported that “there are Inspectors in Paris who, with one thing or another, are getting about 9,000 francs.”⁵

“The National Educational Association of France (‘Ligue française de l’enseignement’), which held its fourth annual Congress at Tours, April 15–18, 1884, agreed that regular medical inspection should be made in every school to avoid epidemic or contagious diseases and injury to eyesight.”⁶

SCHOLARSHIPS.

Scholarships.

The following memorandum has been considerably furnished to me from the Ministry of Public Instruction:—

“BOURSES.

“L’État entretient des boursiers dans l’enseignement primaire supérieur, dans les lycées et collèges, et dans les Facultés.

“Le nombre des bourses attribuées aux écoles primaires supérieures s’élève au 1^{er} mars, 1884, à 1,407; divisées ainsi: garçons, 1,061; filles, 346.

“Les bourses d’enseignement primaire supérieur sont données au concours. Il suffit d’avoir 12 ans et le certificat d’études élémentaires pour être admis à ce concours.

“Les bourses sont de 500 francs pour l’internat complet.

“Il y a ainsi des bourses familiales, c’est à dire pour entretenir les enfants dans une famille à défaut d’école ou de pensionnat.

“Le crédit affecté à cette dépense est de 774,000 francs pour l’année, 1884.

“Dans les lycées et collèges, l’État entretient 4,500 boursiers (chiffre rond); le crédit y affecté est de 2,600,000 francs pour 1884.

“Dans les Facultés, il existe 315 boursiers de licence, 213 boursiers d’agrégation, et 48 boursiers pour la médecine et la pharmacie. Pour couvrir cette dépense une somme de 720,000 francs est inscrite au budget de 1884.”

The comparative smallness of the amounts, especially of those available for superior primary schools, is noticeable.⁷

Last year (1885) a law was passed “providing for education (after examination) for one child in every family which numbered more than six.”⁸

¹ See also R.E.C., Mr. M. Arnold, espec. 5124–5127 and 5559.

² See also Mr. M. Arnold’s (May, 1886), rep., p. 21.

³ Note also opinions of Mr. M. Arnold and Dr. Philbrick —D. Philbrick, p. 56; and R.E.C., Mr. M. Arnold, espec. 5090–5097.

Observe selection made, some from same class as in England, many more from schoolmaster class, 5094, 5567 and seq.

Inspection less mechanical in France than in England, 5095.

For duties, R.E.C., Mr. M. Arnold, 5089 and 5279.

⁴ See also R.E.C., Mr. M. Arnold, 5280.

⁵ R.E.C., Mr. M. Arnold, 5280 and seq.; but see 5294.

⁶ Amer. Commr. Rep., 1885, for 1883–84, p. ccix.; and note notice of “Ligue,” R.E.C., Mr. M. Arnold, 5609.

⁷ For further details, see—

(a) L. and R., p. 10.

(b) Enseignement primaire supérieur, lois et règlements et statistique, pp. 27, 28, and 29–39.

(c) M. Dumont, vol. 15, I.E.C., p. 259.

(d) I.E.C., vol. 15., pp. 146 and 173.

(e) R.C., 1st rep., pp. 9–12, and Appendix No. 1.

(f) B.E. rep., p. 441, and compare with N.Z. 1877 Act, ss. 51–53.

⁸ “Up to March of this year, 189 of these scholarships have been awarded to boys, and twenty-four to girls. It is instructive to note that only two of the boys, and none of the girls, came from Paris. So far the results of the law are interesting only as an indication of the existing size of French families. It will be still more interesting, in a few years’ time, to see whether the French succeed in increasing their population by Act of Parliament.”—*P. M. Budget*, 11 March, 1886, p. 2. For further comments on this curious law see “Not at Home,” “N.C.,” Oct., 1886, p. 561.