

candidate be found to be impracticable, the Inspector may accept, in whole or in part, the results of any other suitable examination held by the Education Department, an Education Board, or other recognized authority, as evidence of the pupil's fitness to receive a certificate of proficiency; and he shall give certificates of proficiency accordingly to all candidates that in his opinion qualify therefor in any of the four ways above mentioned.

18. Immediately on receipt of the notice of the Inspector's visit provided for in clause 1, the head teacher shall post for public information, in a conspicuous place on the school premises, a notice that such visit is about to be made, and shall call the attention of the children thereto. The parent of any child of school age, or on the roll of any school, who wishes such child to obtain a certificate of competency other than a certificate of competency in S6 must give notice of his desire in writing to the head teacher at least three days before such visit; this notice must state on which of the grounds named in clause 16 the parent wishes such certificate to be granted.

The Inspector may, if he see cause, refuse to examine for a certificate of competency any child on the roll of a public school who has not been instructed for at least six months in the work of the standard to which such certificate refers, or in the work of a higher standard; or any candidate who has failed to reach the required standard at an examination held by an Inspector during the previous three months; or any candidate in whose case he is not satisfied of the existence of one of the grounds named in clause 16 hereof.

Nothing in this regulation shall prevent the Inspector from accepting at any time the results of a head teacher's examination or the records of a school as sufficient evidence that a child has reached a certain standard of education, and giving his certificate accordingly, whether such child be still on the school roll or not.

The head teacher shall, on the day of the visit above referred to, hand to the Inspector lists in duplicate of those on behalf of whom notice has been given to him of the desire to obtain such certificates of competency. These lists shall be written on forms provided by the Department.

19. Any candidate for a certificate of proficiency or competency who is not of school age and is not on the roll of any school must give notice in the manner prescribed in clause 18 hereof.

Special and Central Examinations.

20. The Inspector may also hold special examinations of candidates, whether of school age or not, for certificates of competency or for certificates of proficiency at any place and time that may seem fit to him, and may require candidates for such special examinations to give fourteen days' notice of their intention to be examined.

By or on behalf of each candidate at such special examinations there shall be paid to the Inspector, or, if the Board shall so direct, to the Secretary of the Education Board, the following fees, namely: If there be only one candidate, £1; if there be two candidates, 10s. for each candidate; if there be three candidates, 6s. 8d. for each candidate; if there be four or more candidates, 5s. for each candidate. But no fee shall be payable in the case of any one examined at a school at the time of the Inspector's visit to such school.

Form of Certificates.

21. (i.) All certificates, whether of competency or of proficiency, shall be on forms issued by the Department, and shall be signed by an Inspector of Schools, or by the Secretary of the Education Department or of an Education Board in accordance with information furnished by an Inspector.

In the case of pupils attending the normal school attached to a recognized training college, such certificates may be signed by the Principal of the training college.

(ii.) No certificate of proficiency or of competency shall be issued except in accordance with the foregoing clauses 16 and 17 hereof.

22. The Inspectors of the several districts shall make an annual return, on a form provided by the Department, showing with respect to the public schools subject to their inspection the number of pupils in the several classes P to S7, and the number present at the time of the annual examination, as indicated in the class-sheets submitted to them under the provisions of clause 6. The return shall also include for each school the Inspectors' estimate (a) of the general character of the instruction given in the school, (b) of the order, discipline, and tone of the school, and (c) of its material condition, together with a notification of the number and character of certificates of Sixth Standard attainment issued to the pupils. The return shall be accompanied by a report on the public schools of the district, dealing, for the schools generally, with such of the topics named in clause 12 as it may seem expedient to include.