

issue). The district school inspectors were the substantial element of state supervision of schools and they were given the biggest share of responsibility for the state of the education system.

The highest school authority was the Land School Board, exercising supervision over district and local school boards, over institutes for teaching and over secondary schools. The Land School Council met once a month to deal with general issues (composition of Annual Land Report on Education) as well as individual cases (eg. appeals against sanctions, requests for exemptions from tuition fees etc.)

The land school inspectors were required to make „occasional“ inspections at schools, to conduct examinations and to supervise district and local school boards. Land inspectors' supervision of schools was not only related to the quality of teaching, but also to prevent that „schools were not misused for political, national, or religious purposes“. They were required to write detailed reports on their school visitations, which they appended with their suggestions and submitted them to a Land School Board session. They were also required to participate at meetings of various departments of the Land Bureau to provide expert view on issues related to pedagogy.

Newly established Czechoslovak Republic took over legislation of former Austro-Hungarian Empire and so the State supervision over schools had not changed very much. District school inspectors, who also served as officers-specialists at District School Committees, supervised municipal and burgher schools. They were usually teachers or secondary school professors, who had passed an inspectorial exam. They could apply for the exam 14 years after having passed the teaching maturity exam, or after 11 years of secondary school teaching experience. If they were successful at the exam, they were registered to the waiting list for district school inspectors' positions. After a vacancy had appeared, expectants could apply for the vacant position. The future inspector had to be nominated by the Land School Board and approved by the Minister for Education and Popular Enlightenment. District school inspectors served for a given time period, for which they were substituted by another teacher.

Within inspection activity, inspectors supervised work of Local School Boards comprising teachers and municipality representatives, whose duty was to administer funds, to maintain the school building and its equipment, to make a list of school-age children, to execute directives of supreme authorities etc. They also checked on pupils' attendance, on teaching activities, on curriculum compliance and overall quality of teaching, on teaching aids and other school equipment, on condition of the school building and its surroundings, etc. They also checked on teachers' demeanor outside their school duties, their continuous further education and private activities. They were required to write a report on a performed visitation. Furthermore, a district school inspector had to make an annual qualification assessment of teachers working at schools under scope of the inspector's responsibility.

In the Czech Lands, the supreme body of school supervision were the Land School Boards, seated in Prague, Brno and Opava. They were divided into the Czech and German departments. While religious community representatives belonged to