At the beginning of the twentieth century, the University of Wisconsin employed a "certificate system" to establish eligibility for undergraduate admittance. If found by on-site inspection that a school’s facilities, curriculum, and teaching were satisfactory, its graduates could enter the UW without further examination. This process insured cooperation between secondary schools and the UW. It worked successfully for over a half century, however its success undermined its viability. To advance his own bureaucratic agenda, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction took advantage of growing doubts about the system, and carefully maneuvered in 1931 to take over complete inspection authority. The demise of inspection paved the way for the ascent of standardized testing as an important determinant of admittance to public flagship universities.