

Years.	No. of Pupils registered in Winter.	No. of Pupils registered in Summer.	No. Different Pupils registered during the year.
1866	45131	56017	71059
1867	61818	70075	83048
1868	65083	72141	88707
1869	72756	75523	93732
1870	74321	76237	94496
1871	74759	77235	92858
1872	70780	76496	91637
1873	70329	78266	93759
1874	72645	79910	93510
1875	76349	81878	94029
1876	77593	82034	94162

The above statement should awaken considerable interest, as it is an exhibition of certain results of our school operation for a considerable period of time. In the above we observe the summer attendance growing from 45,000 to 77,000, and from 56,000 to 82,000 for the other school term; we may accept the above as an assurance, that moneys have not in vain been devoted to this department of the public service, and that the anticipations of the founders and early advocates of our system are being realized. As the eye glances over these numbers, and as the mind takes in their meaning, we cannot fail in being impressed with the magnitude of the work thus outlined. What material has been provided by our schools for building up the best interest of our country! How many of those who make up these thousands have entered upon, and are now pursuing useful and honorable lives, and, profiting by the instruction received, are, in all the active pursuits of industrious life, adding to the intelligence and wealth of the Province. In this way they are repaying in tenfold measures the expenditure by which they were fitted for their several business positions, for their social and political relationship, which, without the influence of free public schools, could never have been anticipated.

The increased attendance of 1876 over the former year was not large, but in consideration of various hindrances, such as depression in business, particularly in mining localities, and in several districts the prevalence of contagious diseases: it affords great reason for gratitude that the number attending during the year was in advance of all former years. We are gratified in being so often assured that the clause in the law making it imperative on sections having a certain amount of taxable property and a certain number of children of a suitable age, to have a school at least one term in the year. This amendment of the law was regarded by many as looking to a more extended compulsory enactment, at no distant time. This may yet be the case, but the compulsory clause now adverted to was not so designed, but rather, as embodying as far as practicable in this province, the compulsory idea. The measure is working well and a number of sections exceedingly tardy in their movements heretofore are now, by this law, induced to do willingly what without it they would not do at all. Several of our Inspectors, as will be seen from