

Prince Edward Island Schools.

The report of Dr. Anderson, Chief Superintendent of the schools of Prince Edward Island, shows that there were 591 teachers employed during the year ending 30th September, 1910, a decrease of four over 1909. The male teachers number 210, female 381, so that it will be seen the disproportion between the two sexes is not so great as in other eastern provinces. The number of pupils enrolled in the schools was 17,932, a decrease of 141 as compared with the year 1909. It appears that there has been a steady decline in the attendance since 1900 when it was 21,289. This somewhat alarming decrease is accounted for by the removal of so many young men and women from the province, chiefly to the Canadian west. The average attendance, however, during the past eight years has shown a small but steady increase, being nearly 65 per cent. during the past year. The enrolment in the schools shows that the boys exceeded the girls by over 1,200. The proportion of population at school is one in five and the expenditure for each pupil in average attendance is \$16.68. The number of vacant schools in the province during the last decade is surprisingly small.

"Perhaps the most fertile source of non-attendance," says Dr. Anderson, "is the frequent change of teachers. A large proportion of the schools have a different teacher every year, some of them have two, and in a few cases three teachers in the course of a year. It manifestly follows that teachers and pupils have not time to become acquainted with each other, a mutual interest is hard to establish, and on both sides there is nothing but what we might designate as mechanical intercourse."

There has been a steady increase during the past ten years in the matter of local support of schools, so that out of 479 school districts there are now but 31 which pay no supplement beyond the government grant. One of these, a first class graded school in Queens County, holds the unenviable distinction of not contributing one cent to the salary of its teachers!—A case probably that has few if any parallels in this country of "free" schools.

Dr. Anderson asks from the people of the Island a more liberal reward for teachers and a better equipment for their schools, and recommends that an education tax be imposed, collected and disbursed by the government.

Schools of Quebec.

The total number of schools including universities, classical colleges and special schools, in the province of Quebec is 6,760 with a teaching staff of 14,000, of whom 5,805 are ecclesiastics and 8,195 lay teachers; of the latter nearly 7,000 are women. The attendance at these educational institutions during the year 1909-10 was 394,915 pupils an increase of 7,552 over the preceding year. Much activity is reported in building new school houses on modern plans. The Roman Catholic elementary schools numbered 4,727, with an increase of 83 during the year; the number of Protestant elementary schools was 596 with no increase over the previous year.

Schools of Ontario.

The Minister of Education for Ontario, Hon. R. A. Pyne, reports many improvements in the educational conditions of the province,—the average salary paid to teachers steadily increases; school boards show a readiness to spend the money required for new and more modern school buildings, and for better equipment. The number of enrolled pupils for 1909 was 456,302, an increase of 3,081 over the previous year. The urban schools showed a gain of 6,078, the rural schools a decrease of 2,997. The percentage of attendance was 60.17, a slight increase over the previous year. The total expenditure upon the elementary schools of the province was a little over eight millions of dollars, and the cost of educating each pupil is \$17.84 an increase of 32 cents over 1908. The continuation schools numbered 128, with an enrolled attendance of 5,866, an increase of 549 for the year.

Schools of British Columbia.

The Superintendent of Education, Dr. Alex. Robinson, reports the total enrolment in all colleges and schools of British Columbia for the year ending June 30, 1910, to be 39,822, an increase of 3,595 over that of the previous year. The number of boys was 20,449 and of girls 19,373, but in the high schools the boys numbered 919, the girls 1,122. The percentage of regular attendance was 70.54, the highest in the history of the public schools of the province. The total cost of education was \$1,917,236 compared with \$1,547,700 for the previous year, and the cost of educating each pupil in average daily attendance was \$21.78, the highest, if we mistake not, in Canada.