

working of the Institute. He concluded his remarks by referring in flattering terms to *The Quarterly*, a periodical connected with the school, and asked that the rest of the day should be given to the pupils. He was listened to by the pupils assembled in the Examination Hall with close attention, and was repeatedly cheered by them during his remarks."

The annual report of the Inspector of Public Schools in Toronto shows that rapid progress is being made in educational matters in that city. The number of pupils registered during the year was 9,799. The average daily attendance was 5,976. The attendance was much better than in any previous year. There were 32,990 fewer cases of absences in 1876 than in 1875, and 26,976 fewer cases of lateness. The increase in the attendance at the schools has been very rapid. In 1856 the average registered number was 2,318, the daily attendance, 1,747; 1866, the average registered number was 3,139, the daily attendance, 2,309; 1876, the average registered number was 6,912, the daily attendance, 5,976. The registered and average attendance have thus been more than doubled during the past ten years. There are 122 teachers in the employ of the Board. Thirty were added during 1876. These teachers hold certificates as follows:—First-class, Provincial, 45; first-class County Board 19; second-class, Provincial 58. No third class teachers are employed. A very large increase was made during the year in the amount of school accommodation. The Wellesley and Givens street schools were enlarged; the former by the addition of eight rooms, and the latter by the addition of two rooms. Besides these, the Ryerson and Dufferin Schools, each containing twelve rooms, were erected. The new buildings are a credit to the city, as public buildings. Great care was taken in their erection to have them thoroughly ventilated, and fitted up in accordance with the modern improvements in school architecture. The internal arrangements, blackboards, cloak rooms, assembly rooms, &c., are very complete and convenient. 700 single and 1,300 double desks were procured during the year. The cost of maintaining the schools was \$60,456. This was \$6.17 per child, on the basis of the registered number, and \$10.13 on the basis of average attendance. Perhaps the most encouraging feature in connection with the working of the schools is the fact that the number of classes in the 4th and 5th books was increased during the year from 13 to 26, without reducing the numbers in each class.

#### QUEBEC.

The *Montreal Gazette* thus describes the inspection to which the schools in this Province have been accustomed in the past; if the change of system brings about a more satisfactory state of affairs we shall be happy to announce it:—Take the description of his first inspection given us by one of our leading academy principals. It was somewhat as follows: "A gentleman once suddenly entered my school whom, by dryness of appearance, primness of attire, and air of immense but polite superiority, I recognized as my Inspector. He approached my desk, making three bows on the road. He uttered a swift sentence in French. I blushed to the roots of my hair and incontinently replied 'Wee.' He then turned his back on the boys; opened his little bag, took out a little comb, combed his whiskers and moustache, and finally put on a black hat or cap of indescribable shape and uttered another short sentence or long word in French, waved his hand and took a chair. I examined the boys in geography. After awhile he waved his hand again and I took history. He then rose, said little, waved his hand much, put some expensive books by second-rate authors in my hands, packed up his cap, put on the unofficial hat and withdrew with more elaborate bowing than ever." We do not believe this to be overstated. But more remains untold. Will it be believed that some fifteen years ago an Inspector used to distribute prizes by letting the pupils stick pins into the Bible held edgewise, and the first lucky competitor whose pin point ran against an "a" received the prize? Will it be credited that another Inspector to this day sends on to the teacher three weeks ahead the questions he intends to ask, and asks them when he comes? Notice is too often given everywhere of the Inspector's coming visits, prizes are given on general impressions and not in accordance with any well-defined system of marks; nay, it is whispered that the children of the household who "put up" the Inspector mostly turn out the cleverest in the school and get most prizes.

The Protestant and Roman Catholic Boards of Sherbrooke have effected in a perfectly amiable and satisfactory manner a division of the school property in that town between them. The division took place under the new School Act of last session, and takes effect on the 1st of July. The Protestant Board will soon have to provide additional accommodation.

It is stated that Mr. Maston, Principal of the Coaticook High School has been re-engaged at a salary of \$1,200 with three assistant teachers.

#### NEW BRUNSWICK.

The School Law of this Province exacts from teachers an oath to the effect, amongst other things, that they are not in the habit of using unauthorized text-books. This oath some of the St. John teachers decline to take, and the city School Board has backed them up in their refusal. At a conference between the teachers and the Provincial Superintendent, it was elicited that some had doubts as to what a "text-book" really was, and it certainly is not quite so easy to define as some might imagine. The matter is still unsettled and will probably remain so till the Legislature repeals the oath clause, which it should hasten to do.

The St. John School Board is opposed to such a rigid system of uniformity in the matter of school regulations as would leave the city trustees without any discretion in many important matters, such as the arrangement of school sessions. On purely local questions the members of the Board think themselves more competent to decide than the members of the Provincial Council, and the prevailing opinion seems to be that if the free, non-sectarian character of the school system is not endangered a great deal of latitude might safely be allowed to local boards.

#### NOVA SCOTIA.

The school expenditure of Halifax for 1877, is expected to reach \$80,000. There is a prospect of having a High School at an early date.

Rumours have been for sometime in circulation respecting the condition of the Education Department of this Province, not at all to its credit. The Superintendent of education is now openly charged with such misconduct as ought to secure his prompt dismissal from office, if the charge can be made good. He is said by the Halifax journals to have admitted "giving and offering to give examination questions before the date of examination, to candidates, and to others for candidates." If so it is difficult to see how he can be retained.

#### PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Education has for a long time been in a backward condition in this Province, and, under the impression that at least part of the blame for this state of affairs was fairly chargeable to a defective school law, the Legislature has just passed a new Act, which makes many sweeping changes in the system. The law is thoroughly non-sectarian and appears to be very elaborate in its details—too much so, we should say, for flexible working. Many of its provisions are of a character similar to our Departmental Regulations, and to those accustomed to our own simple and comprehensive Act, the plan of leaving minor details to be dealt with by the Department, seems the preferable one. It is to be hoped that the Act will effect all, and more than all the good expected from it.

#### MANITOBA.

The Provincial Government have notified the Winnipeg School Board that the educational grant will be withheld unless immediate steps are taken for the erection of a new school building, the old one having been condemned by the Inspector as unfit for school purposes. The money intended for a new market building has in consequence of this threat been diverted from its original purpose and devoted to making the required provision for school accommodation.

The controversy between the advocates of a sectarian school system and its opponents, continues with unabated zeal.

#### BRITISH COLUMBIA.

When the present school system was organized in this Province in 1872 the number of schools was only 10, while now it is over 40, giving employment to 60 teachers.

The Victoria Colonist recently published a batch of official correspondence respecting the internal condition of the Cache Creek Boarding School. Gross immoralities have been discovered amongst the pupils, and the consequence was a demand for the abolition of the institution. The School owed its existence to the sparseness of the population in that locality, and if there was any good ground for having such an establishment at all some means might surely have been found of repressing the evil and placing the institution once more in a healthy condition. It is, however, to be converted into a Day-School provided there is a sufficient attendance to warrant its continued maintenance, the boarding principle being discontinued. If the attendance proves too small it will be closed altogether.