

all these tests, living, passing the entrance examination to the High School, and leaving at 18 years old, and also assuming the number of births to be constant and the same as last year, viz., 46,019, for the past four years, we have the following figures: 33,594 at 5 years old, 31,293 at 14 years old (age of admission to High School), 30,373 leaving High Schools at 18 years old, and the total enrolments of the High Schools should be 121,492. But by the Minister's report it is only 22,460, giving us a percentage of $18\frac{1}{2}$ almost. Too few by far, only 19 out of every 100 who ought to be there, but still 19 is better than only 5. We have put the case ideally severe as against the High Schools, and this is the showing. Under these ideal conditions we have 19 out of every 100 possible in our High Schools.

Let us look at this question from another standpoint. The Minister of Education presented his report to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario the other day. The report contains the statistics for 1899. This report is full of interesting reading, and we beg to state that the most valuable and interesting part is that which relates to the teachers and pupils. We thank the Minister for the copy sent us, and at present deal with the attendance.

The number of pupils given as being in the First Reader for 1899 is 174,442; the number in Second Reader is given as 93,076, a number less than the former by 81,366! In regard to the number of pupils reported as being in the First Reader, viz., 174,442, considering the birth rate given for the past four years, we most heartily congratulate the parents, especially the mothers of Ontario, on the large number of children for admission to the First Reader. THE CANADA EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY rejoices with them. The

large number in the First Reader gives some support to the suspicion that the birth rate for the preceding four years was put at too small a figure, but even if we allow a deduction on this account still the result would be ample reason for congratulating the parents. But what shall we say to the difference in attendance in the First and Second books—81,366! We confess to a feeling of depression every time we look at it. What does become of these children? And such a number of them! Does the Minister of Education, as the Roman Emperor did to Varus, cry aloud to the Inspectors of the Public Schools for these sons and daughters, the hope of our province? Practically the Fourth Reader is the end of the Public School course. The number reported in this class is 86,500. That is, the Public Schools have lost from the First Reader to the Fourth Reader class 87,942, more than one-half the total number in attendance. At the end of the school work of the Fourth Reader the pupil has the choice of either passing on to the Fifth Reader class or of going to a High School.

It is only at this point that it is possible that the High can come in to divide the attendance with any other class of schools. Suppose for a moment that every one of the 86,500 in the Fourth Reader tried the Entrance Examination and passed, then the attendance in the High Schools is only 26 per cent, but it is 26 per cent.

But the Report gives us accurate information in regard to the number who tried the Entrance Examination to High Schools, and also the number who passed. Taking 4 years for comparison, we find that the average number who applied each year was 16,491, and the number who