

teachers reveals the fact, that of the 657 Roman Catholic teachers 403 are employed in the Public Schools, and 254 in Separate Schools.

The literary standing of the 5,476 certificated teachers is as follows:—

1st Class, Provincial,	307.
2nd do do	731.
1st Class old County Board,	1030.
2nd do do do	746.
3rd do do do	84.
New County Board Certificates,	2,000.
Interim Certificates,	578.

The returns also show a decrease of 482 in old County 1st Class Certificates, 757 in 2nd Class—thus showing that teachers are endeavoring to rise to the higher standard recently fixed by the Council of Public Instruction. This of itself is very gratifying inasmuch as it displays a commendable energy in the profession to keep up with the progress of education.

In regard to salaries the Chief Superintendent says: "The highest salary paid to a male teacher in a *County*, \$600—the lowest, \$96 (!); in a *City*, the highest, \$800—the lowest \$400; in a *Town*, the highest, \$1000—the lowest \$260; in an *Incorporated Village*, the highest \$750—the lowest \$144. The *average* salary of *male* teachers in *Counties* was \$305—of *female* teachers, \$213; in *Cities*, of male teachers, \$628—of female teachers, \$245; in *Towns*, of male teachers, \$507—of female teachers, \$216; in *Incorporated Villages*, of male teachers, \$436—of female teachers, \$212. While the increase during 1872 is satisfactory and an improvement on preceding years, still there is no doubt that amongst the worst enemies to the efficiency and progress of Public School education, are those trustees and parents whose aim it is, to get what they mis-call a "*cheap teacher*," and who seek to haggle down the teacher's remuneration to as near starvation point as possible, though, in reality, they are intellectually starving their own children and wasting

their time by employing an inferior teacher. Business men find it to their interest to employ good clerks, as one good clerk is worth two poor ones; and in order to obtain and retain good clerks they pay them good salaries. Experience has long shown the soundness of this business rule and practice in the employment of teachers; yet how many trustees and parents, in school matters, abandon a rule on which not only the merchant, but the sensible farmer acts in employing laborers, preferring to give higher wages for good laborers than to give lower wages to poor laborers. Good teachers cannot be got for inferior salaries."

In the matter of lectures by Inspectors, evidently the law is not fulfilled. The number of schools open during the year was 4,661, and the number of lectures given was only 1,289. We are not surprised at this when we consider the amount of work which many Inspectors have to do, and the difficulties, in many cases, of getting the ratepayers in many school sections sufficiently interested to attend meetings of this kind. As the law now stands an Inspector is supposed to visit the school without any previous intimation to the teacher. In that case he is obliged if he fulfils the law to lecture in the evening, and allowed merely to call at the school and make the announcement. This entails more work than is agreeable. Again, in rural districts, owing to the occupation of the people, it is next to impossible to secure their attendance during the day. Would it not be better then, to have few lectures and have them given in the evening. If the law merely required the Inspector to lecture once in each alternate school section in the year; to give due notice to the teacher and let the pupils' convenience be consulted, we are quite confident more good would be done, and less blame attached to those who are expected to do what, under existing circumstances, is almost an impossibility.