

highest results in attendance and efficiency have been reached. The records show that last year nearly one fourth of the population was at school. The county academy system, which had long been admitted to be very inefficient, was grappled with and placed on a basis which affords encouragement to the best teachers and gives an impetus to advanced education. Special recognition has been given to the needs of the French speaking portion of the population. An important step has been taken in the direction of technical education in the department of agriculture, with results which will probably warrant an extension of the principle to other departments of industry. The education of the blind and the deaf and dumb has received special consideration and been well sustained.

The humane institutions have been liberally supported and are now to be brought more directly under the control of the government. Valuable improvements have been made in the hospital for the insane. Legislation has been enacted for the removal of the harmless insane to local institutions, which will have the effect of relieving the hospital from its crowded state, and affording room for the treatment of patients who in recent years have sometimes been excluded for want of room.

THE ROAD AND BRIDGE SERVICE.

Roads and bridges have received the utmost attention. Unfortunately we have not had so much money for this important service as in the good old days when Nova Scotia was an independent province, and the moneys now available are insufficient for the service, but every effort has been made to give the most liberal grants that the finances of the province would warrant. The road and bridge grants voted for the four years 1879 to 1882 amounted to \$420,300, an average of \$105,000 per annum, and this included a large increase in the election year (1882) which was not warranted in the circumstances, and which led to a serious deficit at the end of the year. During the four years of the present government, without yielding to the temptation to make an unjustifiable increase on the eve of the election, the grants voted have amounted to \$500,000, an average of \$125,000 per annum. By applying small portions of the grants to the payment of interest on capital we have been able to span the larger rivers of the province with bridges of the more substantial character, most of them of stone and iron.

Over half a million dollars have been expended by the government on the construction of bridges throughout the province. Hundreds of contracts have been awarded. It is a fact of the highest importance to the people that, while all these contracts have been awarded, and the large sum of money I have mentioned has been expended on these public works, no man in parliament has been able to bring against the government a charge of corruption or jobbery. While in other political centres the air is filled with charges of corruption and with the revelations of investigating committees, the opponents of the government of Nova Scotia have had to acknowledge that no charge of corruption can be sustained against them.

All the services having claims upon the provincial treasury have been carefully regarded and aided as far as possible. The volunteers have received recognition. Scientific men have been induced to visit our province and make known its mineral and other resources. The claims of mining districts for special aid to roads have been recognized and aid given in a number of cases.

STEAMBOATS, PACKETS AND FERRIES.

Steamboats, packets and ferries in all sections of the province have been more liberally sustained than before, and the benefits of this important service widely extended. New lines have been established and old ones made more efficient. At the recent session an act was passed under which the south-western shore is receiving the benefit of a new and much improved steam service, which was long sought by the people of that section.

AGRICULTURE.

Agriculture, the occupation of the largest class of our population, has been diligently fostered. The old agricultural system, which was found to be unsatisfactory, has been abolished, and this department brought directly under the control of the people's representatives. The district exhibitions, which were not productive of the good results looked for when they were established, have been abolished, and county exhibitions substituted, which are more likely to meet the wants of the people. A school of agriculture has been established in connection with the Normal School at Truro, which, under the direction of a competent professor who is both a scientific and practical farmer, is doing a very valuable work among