

school population attend no school, nine per cent. of the town, and no less than twelve per cent. of the city school population receive no education.

Comparing the average with the registered attendance, we find that 45 in every hundred attended school every day; this is a slight decrease upon the previous year, and is very much less than it should be. It is far from satisfactory to know that with the greatly increased expenditure upon our schools the regular attendance of scholars has not proportionately increased.

Here then are two serious blots upon our educational system—the large percentage of children that attend no school; and the small percentage that attend school regularly; and these are matters that urgently call for the consideration of the Minister. It cannot be considered satisfactory to find nearly one-half of the registered scholars absent from school for more than one-half the time, as is shewn by this Report. The more thoughtful of the Inspectors have year after year directed the Minister's attention to this, and we hope they will continue to do so until some effective remedy is applied. As usual, the counties stand lowest in average attendance, having only 42 out of every 100, while the towns have 55, and the cities 58. These numbers shew an increase of one per cent. in the cities, and a decrease of two per cent. in the counties, upon the average attendance of the previous year. This low percentage in counties affects the results as regards expenditure in a very curious way. The popular impression is that the cost of education in counties is far less than in cities, owing to the less expensive buildings, and the lower rate of salaries in the former. But while we find that each pupil in average attendance costs the Province \$12.91, the cost per pupil in counties is \$13.33, in cities, \$11.93, and in towns, \$11.34.

Comparing the average attendance of the various counties, we find that Middlesex and Waterloo stand first, with an average of 51 per cent.; and Haliburton last, with 33 per cent. We ventured to point out mistakes in the statement of the average attendance in Simcoe and Brant in the last Report—these

are acknowledged in a foot note of the present one. The table before us is, however, not free from error, for Wellington is credited with an average attendance of only 4,069, or 25 per cent., out of 16,917 registered. There is internal evidence to shew that the percentage should be about 45 per cent. One other curious result these tables shew—Lanark, which was credited with an average attendance of 60 per cent. in the last Report, can claim in the present one only 45 per cent. It would tend to diminish the possibility of such errors in these tables, and would make them much more intelligible to the public, were the percentage of average attendance stated. Among the cities, Toronto and Hamilton take the lead, with an average of 62 per cent. each, and Kingston is lowest with only 50 per cent. Were the statistics that we are now giving supplied in the Report, it might stimulate the various school districts to a little wholesome rivalry in securing a better attendance. Perth stands first among the towns, and is ahead of the cities with an average of 68 per cent, while Niagara, one of the oldest towns in the Province, is the lowest in the scale, having an average of only 42 per cent.

Mr. Crooks has shewn some flickerings of intellectual life in drafting this report by introducing two new statements into it,—one of the percentage of scholars in each class, and the other of the percentage of scholars in each subject. From the first we find that 32 per cent. were in the first class, 22.6 per cent. in the second, 26.7 per cent. in the third, 15.27 in the fourth, and 3.21 in the fifth. It will thus be seen, that the three lowest classes comprise above 81 per cent. of our entire school population. To teach these classes, and teach them well, requires very careful preparation, not only of the head, but of the heart. With that one-sidedness that proclaims their narrowness of vision, the Central Committee and Education Department almost shut the latter out of view by the prominence they gave to the former. Now, there seems to be a great awakening to the necessity of supplementing book-knowledge by practical experience in the school-room for those who have to be trainers not alone