

years to come. The school system is probably the finest and most extensive in proportion to the population that can be found in any City in the World, and though the expense has been heavy the citizens have cheerfully borne the burdens placed upon them in such a good cause.

The Public Schools embrace the Collegiate Institute with Model School and training classes for Teachers, together with the Central School, Ryerson School, Queen Victoria School, West Avenue, Victoria Avenue, Wentworth Street, Cannon Street, Murray Street and Hess Street Schools, together with a number of primary schools and several thoroughly equipped Kindergartens. The average attendance at the Public Schools is about 6,000, and at the Collegiate Institute over 700. These schools are all under the control of a Board of Education consisting of twenty-one members. In addition there are five Separate Schools with an attendance of over 1,000 and a Convent School for young ladies.

The Wesleyan Ladies' College is another valuable Educational Institution devoted to the higher branches, which attracts pupils from great distances on account of the excellent quality of the instruction imparted.

Two Business Colleges furnish those desiring to follow Commercial pursuits with special technical instruction which is sure to be of value to them in their future business life. Though the progress made by the new settlement of Hamilton was slow during the first days of its existence, even Ancaster being then larger and more prosperous, and for a time the County seat, yet for the past twenty-five years its progress has been steady and satisfactory. There has been no "boom" since the days of the inflation caused by the building of the Great Western Railway, from the disastrous results of which inflation and subsequent collapse it took the city many years to recover. Nor do Hamiltonians wish for a "boom," but rather prefer that steady and wholesome growth which is founded upon the necessities and enterprise of its people. Yet, those who look ahead cannot help seeing that in the very near future, Hamilton, now fully equipped for extension, and in excellent financial condition, having crossed the Rubicon of 50,000 inhabitants, must, with the advent of new railway communications, go ahead by leaps and bounds, and become more than ever entitled to be called "The Birmingham of Canada."

Its 174 factories will, with the probable introduction of natural gas and the increased shipping facilities, be largely increased in number, while the causes which have produced depression amongst wholesale shippers will be removed.