

produce good results. In this point of view, it is much to be regretted, that, with the exception of the members of the clergy, the other *ex-officio* visitors perform the duties imposed upon them but very rarely. It is also a lamentable fact, that in most municipalities the Commissioners themselves may be accused of the same negligence. This is a further proof of the necessity for demanding a certain amount of education as a condition and qualification for the office of Commissioner, as suggested in my first report.

To conclude, the Journals of Education will aid not a little in reminding parents of the high importance of sending their children to school at an early age; of sending them punctually and assiduously, and of allowing them to remain there until they can reap, on leaving the schools, the benefit of the education they have received.

For this reason, all friends of youth,—all who have at heart their instruction and improve it,—should use their utmost endeavours to circulate and render popular the two journals (French and English) lately established and published by the Department.

*3rdly. Statistics for the Year 1856.*

The Statistical Statement, comprised in Appendix A. of this Report, is deserving of the attention of all persons of education desirous of becoming acquainted with the intellectual progress of the country.

The Department of Education had not, until lately, any officer whose particular duty it was to collect and compile the information obtained by this office from the various sources from which it is derived.

It will not be considered surprising, then, that this branch has this year assumed an importance which it did not previously possess, and which can but augment considerably with the experience and proficiency daily attained by the clerk of accounts and statistics, M. de Lusignan, whose perseverance, assiduity and ability have been of the greatest assistance to me.

In a re-examination of the calculations of the last year, some errors were discovered, resulting from figures in the tables of some of the Inspectors having been twice added. The revised summary of all the Educational Institutions, of the pupils, and of all the contributions and assessments, will show as follows, and exhibits considerable progress during the present year:—

	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.	Incr. over 1855.	Incr. over 1854.	Incr. over 1853.
Institutions .....	2352	2795	2869	2915	50	124	667
Pupils .....	108234	119733	127054	142141	15123	22408	32837
Contributions .....	£ 41462	£ 62284	£ 62284	£ 101691	£ 39407	£ 42153	£ 60229

The total number of Institutions, as shown by the statements given in by the Inspectors, is less than the one given above, which is taken from Statement D., collected from the reports made by the different Institutions for superior Education, from the reports of the School Commissioners, and from information directly obtained by myself. The Inspectors' Statement G. shows only 2,867, but I have every reason to believe that the first total is correct. On the other side, the 142,141 pupils in all classes of Institutions above given, is the number given by the Inspectors; to which is added the number of pupils of the first section of the first division, (Universities and special Superior Schools). Statement D. gives 142,908. I preferred the first figures, not being so certain of the correctness of Statement D. in that respect, inasmuch as several of the preparatory classes, (connected with Institutions for Superior Education) which are under the control of the Commissioners, might have been included twice in this Statement. Nevertheless, as the Inspectors' Statements do not give exactly the number of pupils in Institutions not under the control of the Commissioners, it is most probable that the real number may be considered as being between the 142,141 and the 142,908 numbers above given. The difference between these two statements, it may be remembered, was much more considerable in my preceding report; it will disappear in proportion as the Secretary-Treasurers, the School Inspectors, and the Principals of Institutions will acquire more experience, and will be better enabled to comprehend the nature of the instructions from time to time addressed to them. There is no person, in the slightest degree acquainted with the science of statistics, who will not perceive that this difference in the numbers given, being collected from so many sources, cannot at present be remedied; and at all events the lowest number given may be relied upon as having been reached during the year.

As I have already remarked, real progress should be judged more from the number of children who really derive benefit from what is taught them, than from the number of children attending the schools. The following statement will, however, prove (although we might wish for a more satisfactory one) that in this respect we are not altogether stationary:—

	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.	Increase over 1855.	Increase over 1854.	Increase over 1853.
Pupils reading well.	27367	32861	43407	46940	3533	14079	18573
" writing "	50072	47014	58039	60086	2083	13072	10012
Learn. simple arith.	18281	22897	30631	48359	17728	25462	30078
" compound "	12448	18073	22586	23431	845	5358	10982
" book-keeping.	.....	799	1976	5012	3036	4213	5012
" geography...	12185	13826	17700	30124	12434	16308	17949
" history .....	6738	11486	15520	17580	2060	6094	10842
" French gram.	15353	17851	23260	39328	16068	21476	23975
" English "	7066	7097	9004	11824	2820	4727	4758
" parsing .....	4412	9283	16439	26310	9871	17027	21898

The Statement A. contains the report of the census of the children in the different municipalities, as made by the Secretary-Treasurers under the provisions of the new law. It must necessarily be imperfect, from want of experience on the part of these officers, and in a great many instances from the unwillingness of the rate-payers to furnish correct statements. The reader will notice many blanks that remain unfilled. I have deemed it expedient, however, to publish it even in its imperfect state; as, at any rate, we can arrive as nearly as possible at important results.

According to this statement, there are 229,216 children, between the ages of five and sixteen, in Lower-Canada, of whom 121,755 attend the schools located within their respective municipalities. The first of these totals must certainly be below the real number. After having carefully compared the total of the population of the municipalities in which the law has not been put in force, with the results obtained from the others, it was found necessary to add 7,000 children to account for this deficit. There are also many localities having no municipal organization in which the number of children, between the ages of five and sixteen, can not be estimated at less than 10,000.

From the causes above mentioned, the result of the census, even in places where it has been made with the utmost care, is much below the real number of children; and I should estimate the difference at about twenty per cent. Upon these calculations, the number of children from five to sixteen years of age, would appear to me to be, in the year 1856, 292,059.

With reference to the 121,755 children attending schools, as stated in the census, this number appears to me to be correct, in so far as the same refers to Elementary Schools. The Statement G. (that of the Inspectors), gives 121,568, exclusive of convents, which are all included in the class of female academics. (1)

The pupils of the institutions for superior Education, have not, with few exceptions, been comprised in the returns of the census made by the Secretary-Treasurers, as attending school, although included in the statement of children in the municipality. The number of children between five and sixteen years of age attending Institutions for Superior Education, which, appears by the answers given by the Secretary-Treasurers to the circular addressed to them referring to this subject, to have been altogether omitted, is 16,485: giving 138,240 children from five to sixteen years of age attending all the different Educational Institutions out of 292,059, or 47.23 per cent. It would appear then, there are 153,819 children between five and sixteen years of age who receive no instruction whatever, and if we add to this, at least one-fourth of those whose names are inscribed as attending school, but who, from want of punctuality in their attendance may be considered as deriving very little if any benefit therefrom, this state of things offers a very melancholy and important subject for deep reflection, calculated however at the same time doubly to increase the zeal of those who take any interest in the education of youth.

(1) Statement G, 112 and following pages, gives 94,629 children in Elementary Schools under the control of the Commissioners; 19,530 in the Boys' Model Schools; 2,482 in Girls' Model Schools; 2,584 in Discontented Elementary Schools; 11,283 in Independent Schools,—forming a total of 121,568. It is true that in Statement D, only 118,984 children are stated as attending Elementary Schools: but this arises from our having deducted the junior classes, or preparatory schools, attached to some of the establishments for superior education comprised in another part of the statement, in order to avoid a re-addition of the number of children, which would have increased the difference above alluded to.