

public schools of poor and outlying municipalities, on the ground that certificated teachers could not be obtained. An examination of the facts of the different cases would, no doubt, show that in many instances the difficulty of obtaining certificated teachers arose from the small salaries offered. These six hundred and thirty-eight teachers without diplomas, along with the 1,749 ecclesiastics, &c., who are exempt from examination by law, gives a total of 2,387 teachers engaged in the schools of the Province without passing the usual examinations. It can scarcely be considered satisfactory that one-third of the teaching staff of the Province is carrying on the work of public instruction without having submitted to any official test of their fitness for that work.

The Monetary Tables, which are prepared from the semi-annual reports from the different municipalities, give detailed information concerning the number of pupils of school age in each municipality, the government grant to each municipality, and the amount of the yearly assessments of various kinds raised in each municipality for school purposes.

Apart from the cities of Quebec and Montreal, reports from which are not complete, it appears that there were two hundred and sixty-three thousand two hundred and sixty-three children of school age in the Province, of whom one hundred and eighty-eight thousand seven hundred and ninety-six, or 71 per cent., attended school for a longer or shorter period during the year; that a government grant of \$152,763.00 was paid to the different municipalities, and that the municipalities themselves contributed for school purposes, \$711,615.38, \$76,758.45 of which were levied as monthly fees.

ARBOUR DAY.

WE congratulate the Hon. the Minister of Education on the forward step he has taken in having appointed an "Arbour Day" for the Ontario Schools.

There are many considerations which render the cultivation of trees around our dwellings and public buildings very desirable, and we are glad to see that our neighbours in the Province of Quebec have moved in the matter.

It is a good thing to foster among our youth thought and care for anything that grows, and many other sentiments are called out besides a love of the beautiful, although that is well worth our attention; but the care of these products of nature thus early begun will grow with our children and yield an inexhaustible fund of pleasure and enjoyment; the people too will recognize the need for protecting trees, which will be far more effective than laws for the protection of forests.

How frequently we have regretted the wholesale destruction of the beautiful forest trees of Ontario, and the bare and uninviting surroundings of farm-houses in the newly-cleared parts of the country. Perhaps in clearing new land it was impossible always to save a few trees, but where this could not be done, steps should have been taken earlier to replace such beautiful objects. We hope the day is not far distant when *all* rural school houses will be tastefully surrounded by trees, and that travellers will at once recognize such buildings by this desirable feature.

In towns and cities the value of trees, plants and flowers in a sanitary direction is manifold and too frequently overlooked. The roots feed on organic matter which would otherwise undergo decomposition, polluting the air and surface water; they also