

REPORT OF THE MINISTER OF
EDUCATION FOR THE YEAR
1891, WITH THE STATISTICS
OF 1890.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

DURING the last few years we have called attention to the almost stationary school population of Ontario, and since our review of the Minister's Report for 1890 the results of the census in regard to population have appeared, and have proved a striking confirmation of the correctness of the figures in the table before us. In 1877 the registered attendance of pupils between the ages of 5 and 16 was 490,860; in 1890 it was 496,565, of pupils not between 5 and 16 years of age, but between 5 and 21, an increase of 5,705 in thirteen years, and a decrease of 6,031 from 1889. It is satisfactory to know that while there has been such a slight increase in the registered attendance of pupils since 1877, the average attendance has materially increased, for while it was only 44 per cent. in that year, it had risen in 1890 to 51 per cent. of the registered attendance. It is satisfactory also to know that the regularity of pupils in attending school is improving, though it is yet far from what it should be, and if the Minister of Education would see that the compulsory Act is put in force as it is his duty to do, we would then have not only a better average attendance, but those most in need of education would receive it. The compulsory law is either a good or a bad law; if it is a good law, it should be enforced; if it is a bad one, it should never have been enacted. After drawing attention to the fact that the compulsory powers entrusted to trustees are not enforced, the Minister complacently states that 20 per cent. of the rural school population, 13 per cent. of that in towns, and 7 per cent. of that in cities attended less than one hundred days in 1890.

The number of Public School teachers in the Province was 8,180; of this number 33 per cent. were males and 67 per cent. females. In 1877 the male teachers were 47 per cent. of the whole, and since 1879 the number of female teachers has been steadily increasing. It is gratifying to notice that the number of those holding second-class certificates has been gradually increasing, so that now they comprise 36 per cent. of the whole, while in 1877 they were only 20 per cent. In the latter year the proportion of teachers holding certificates of the third class was 61 per cent. of the whole; in 1890 it was only 50 per cent. The number of those holding first-class certificates is almost at a standstill; in 1877 it was 250, while in 1890 it was only 247. In the former year it was 4 per cent. of the whole; in the latter, only 3 per cent., so that relatively the number has decreased.

The average salary for male teachers in 1890 was \$423—an increase of \$2 over that of the previous year; the average salary for female teachers was \$292—a decrease of \$4. The lowest salaries are paid in counties and the highest in cities.

Of the 5,768 school-houses, 47 per cent. are either brick or stone, 42 per cent. frame, and 1 per cent. log. The log school-house is gradually disappearing.

The total receipt of money for the support of these schools was \$5,016,212; of this amount the municipalities contributed 68 per cent., the legislature 6 per cent., while the remaining 26 per cent. came from the Clergy Reserves and other sources. The total expenditure was \$4,295,678. Of this, \$2,669,377, or 62 per cent., went for teachers' salaries, and the rest for sites, buildings, rent, fuel, etc. The cost per pupil in average attendance for the whole Province was \$17.20; for counties, \$15.60; for