

pupils, and swelling the total number of children attending school in the district to 7,000.

The number of schoolhouses in the district owned by the School Commissioners and Trustees was 91. These buildings were generally kept in good repair; but in several places they were left unprovided with the indispensable accessories; and a deficiency in the school material was also apparent.

The want of activity in collecting the school revenue is also animadverted upon by the Inspector, who observes that this is the cause of much embarrassment to the teachers.

There were 20 public libraries, containing 8,807 volumes. These collections were very useful in developing a taste for letters among the rural population.

Extract from Inspector BOURGEOIS' Report for 1862.

COUNTIES OF DRUMMOND AND ARTHABASKA, AND THE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OF CHESTER, TINGWICK, KINGSLEY AND DURHAM.

The statistical tables accompanying Mr. Bourgeois' Report for 1862 may be summed up as follows: number of municipalities established, 24; school districts, 86; schools in operation, 84, of which 78 are under the supervision of School Commissioners and 6 under control of Trustees (two Catholic and four Protestant schools). Of these 84 schools, 80 are elementary, 1 is a model school, and 3 are academies. The number of pupils is 3,510; or an increase of 510 on the year preceding. Increase in the number of schools, 13. Sum levied \$11,055.38.

"If," says the Inspector, "this comparison between the last two years presents results so satisfactory, the progress will be much more striking by going further and noting the successes obtained during the last ten years."

"When I made my first Report to the Department in 1852, this district, which has been somewhat extended since, only contained 7 school municipalities, with 10 schools under control, many of which were of an inferior class, and an attendance of 425 pupils."

"At present there are within the same limits, 18 municipalities, with 62 schools, the greater number of which are very well conducted, and the attendance has increased to 2,776."

"Taking into account the fact that everything had to be created amidst the endless difficulties which invariably rise up to obstruct the organization of a new system, it must be admitted that more could not easily have been done during a period of ten years."

"The School Law, which met with so much opposition at first, is now in full operation in all parts of this district; and everyone seems to be desirous of availing himself of the advantages which it offers. Yet, I am compelled to add that in some localities, where the law has only recently been put in force, indecision and want of energy in the administration of school affairs is apparent, and it is only by constant supervision and active measures that success is ensured."

Mr. Bourgeois states that the children are withdrawn from school by their parents at the ages of 10 or 11, or just as they are getting sufficiently advanced to understand and digest the matter previously acquired.

"The embarrassment," continues the Inspector, "felt throughout the country during the year just ended, contributed to increase the difficulty usually experienced in the collection of the school revenue, and a longer delay than usual has occurred in consequence. Irregularity in paying the salaries of several teachers and failure to fulfil promptly the engagements entered into by several school corporations were the natural results. Here indeed is one of the most formidable causes tending to obstruct the working of our school system. Whenever it shall be possible to convince School Commissioners that school dues must be collected regularly, and the ratepayers that punctual payment will be insisted on, a great step in advance shall have been taken, and a pledge of success for the future obtained."

Extract from Mr. MAURAUULT's Report for 1862.

COUNTIES OF NICOLET AND YAMASKA.

A slight decrease in the number of children frequenting the schools has taken place during the year. The number of municipalities and school districts has, however, remained the same, 7, 2, 16 and 108 respectively. Three schoolhouses have been added.

Of the 108 schools in operation, 5 are academies (2 in the county of Nicolet, and 3 in the county of Yamaska), 2 are model schools (in the county of Nicolet), and 3 are girls' schools of a superior

class (in the same county). There are besides, a college in which the classics are taught, a convent, and two independent schools.

The number of male teachers is 10, of females, 101—all provided with diplomas. The salaries paid to male teachers range from \$100 to \$250, to females from \$72 to \$200.

The school dues arising from local sources amounted to \$9,874.30.

The inspector observes that nearly all the teachers in the district subscribed to the *Journal de l'Instruction Publique*, in which course they met with the entire approval of the school commissioners.

Extract from Inspector BARDY's Report for 1862.

COUNTIES OF QUEBEC, MONTMORENCY, AND PORTNEUF; AND R. C. SCHOOLS OF QUEBEC.

In his first Report for 1862, Mr. Bardy complains of a disposition on the part of several school commissioners to underpay the teachers employed by them; and that in some localities the schools are given to the lowest bidders.

In the districts inhabited by Irish settlers the system of voluntary contribution generally obtains. This method, as experience abundantly proves, is attended with many difficulties and its adoption is not desirable in any locality. No institution can be maintained on a secure basis if its support is made to depend entirely on the pleasure of this or that individual. Were the regular school tax substituted everywhere for this defective system, and its collection strictly enforced, the Inspector sincerely believes that the many difficulties which have hitherto beset the path of education would speedily disappear.

It is much to be desired that the contents of all circulars issued by the Department of Education be well considered by the Boards of School Commissioners for whose benefit they are intended; and that the duty of placing such matters promptly before them, at special meetings to be called for the purpose if necessary, be punctually attended to by their respective Secretaries. The *Journals of Education*, continues the Inspector, should also be in the hands of all teachers and other persons connected with the administration of the school system; and school Commissioners and Trustees, who receive these periodicals gratuitously, would derive especial benefit from an attentive perusal of their columns, in which much valuable information relative to the duties of their office is to be found.

In the second Report for 1862, Mr. Bardy speaks most approvingly of the divers educational institutions of Quebec. He alludes to the recent establishment in that city of an English school under the auspices of the Rev. Mr. Auclair, and Rev. Mr. McGauran, of St. Patrick's. It is conducted by the *Brothers of the Christian Schools* and promises much for the future.

Extract from Mr. JUNEAU's Report for 1862.

COUNTIES OF DORCHESTER AND LÉVIS.

Mr. Juneau reports that the progress of the schools in this district of inspection during the year 1862, had continued to be satisfactory and that the law was generally carried out in an efficient manner.

The number of children attending the schools was 7879, showing an increase of 368 over the number reported for the previous term.

The accounts of the Secretary-Treasurers were generally well kept.

Extract from Mr. CRÉPAULT's Report for 1862.

COUNTIES OF BELLECHASSE, MONTMAGNY AND L'ISLET.

It appears by Mr. Crépault's report for 1862, that there was no locality, however poor, in this district of inspection that had not now one or more schools.

Two new settlements, Mailloux and Armagh, had opened several schools within the last few months. Competent teachers could more readily find employment here than formerly, and would in all probability supersede the incompetent, who had too long enjoyed the preference.

Many of the teachers employed in this district were from the Laval Normal school, and had without exception discharged their duties with zeal and success. Although the teachers in Model schools generally obtained a fair remuneration, the salaries given to those employed in the elementary schools were, says the Ins-