

by 17 years, but she added to and strengthened her law in 1887 and 1891.

Colorado followed in 1889 with a law, based wisely upon the Michigan law. Oregon seized her opportunity in 1889, and Utah in 1890.

San Salvador and some of the other Central American States have compulsory laws in force, and under these laws Guatemala is making great strides towards the more advanced state of her more northern neighbours.

And last, and of more importance to us, Ontario in 1891. Clause 4 of this act reads as follows:—"All children between 8 and 14 years of age shall attend school for the full term during which the school of the section or municipality in which they reside is open each year, unless excused for the reasons hereinafter mentioned, and if the parents or guardians having legal charge of such children shall fail to send them to school regularly for said full term, or if such children shall absent themselves from school without satisfactory excuses, such parents, guardians and children shall be subject to the provisions and penalties of section 9 of this act." Section 9 provides a penalty of not less than \$5 nor more than \$20 for delinquents, or they may be required to furnish bonds for their future conduct, and article 15 provides a fine of from \$25 to \$50 for those officers charged with the enforcement of the act who fail to do their duty. This act went into force July 1st, 1891.

In most countries where compulsory laws are in force the schools are free or practically so, and in many, text-books are also free.

Such then is a brief historical resumé of the subject.

OPINIONS OF EMINENT EDUCATORS.

The following paragraphs contain a few opinions as enunciated by men of note and influence:

Superintendent Draper, of N. Y., says that "A government that provides a free public school system for its own safety is necessarily bound to see that all children are brought within the influences of that system."

Superintendent Maxwell of Brooklyn says, "A law that does not provide summary punishment for the parents who neglect their duty, is unworthy this age and country."

R. T. Ely in *Century*, says, "Compulsory education laws should everywhere be passed and enforced as in other civilized countries."