

attendance. If we adopted Mr. Crooks's method of computation we would find, as indeed he shows, that the cost on registered attendance is less in the counties.

The total school population between the ages of 5 and 16 years was 489,924, being a slight decrease from the number for 1879. Of this number 30,195 are returned as not attending any school for four months in the year. If the trustees mean anything by this return, they intend it to indicate the number of children that do not attend any school at all. That this is evident will be seen by reference to a succeeding page, where it is shown that 27 per cent. of the total school population, or over 130,000, attended school for less than 51 days in the year 1879. But the Report takes a different view. It deducts the number of those under 17 years of age who attended high and private schools from the number shown as not having attended any school, and the figures are thus reduced to 10,000. By additional manipulation the number of this class between 7 and 12 years of age is again reduced to 5,878. Hence, Mr. Crooks lays the flattering unction to his soul that there are not 6,000 children in the Province who are not reaping the benefits of education in one school or another. He has sanguine hopes that the change made in the School Law in 1881 will make the number not attending school still less. Every child between 7 and 13 years of age is now required to attend 11 weeks in each session, and machinery is prescribed for seeing that this law is carried out. But unless the Government adopt measures to have the law enforced, we venture to assert that it will remain on our statute book as much a dead letter as the previous four months' law. Trustees are not at all likely to enforce a law that would tend to make them unpopular, so long as they can secure a reasonable attendance at the schools they have under them without resorting to it.

Another improvement which we have repeatedly urged appears in the present Report, in the table showing the percentage of average attendance. The ordinary reader can now see at a glance the rate of attendance in the

various counties, cities and towns. We ourselves gave sufficient statistics from the reports in previous years to show how the attendance stood in different localities; and in making these up we had occasion to point out errors in the printed computations, one of which, that of attendance in the county of Wellington, is acknowledged in a footnote of the present Report, but without giving us credit for detecting it. Now, the percentage of average attendance will prevent the repetition of any such error in future. The average attendance for counties, in 1879, was 43 per cent. of the registered attendance; for cities, 57 per cent.; and for towns, 55 per cent. The average for the Province was 46 per cent.; this is 1 per cent. higher than that of the previous year. It is remarkable that such a thinly-settled county as Lanark should have the highest average attendance, viz., 50 per cent.; another very thinly-settled county—Haliburton—has the lowest—36 per cent. Of the cities, Hamilton stands first, with a percentage of 65, and Ottawa last, with 49 per cent. Perth, again, takes the lead among the towns with 67 per cent., while Welland is lowest with an average of 42. Mr. Crooks would deserve to be canonized if he could hit upon some legitimate expedient to increase the average attendance. It is not a satisfactory state of things to find that only forty-six out of every hundred children enjoy the full benefits of the education our public schools afford. We shall rejoice to find the law, from which Mr. Crooks expects so much, operating favourably, as it should do if properly administered, upon the attendance of scholars.

There were 33 per cent. of pupils in the first class, 22 in the second, 26 in the third, 16 in the fourth, and only 3 in the fifth. It will thus be seen that 81 per cent. of our children are in the First, Second and Third Books. The number of schools was 5,182; of teachers, 6,747, of whom 3,264 were male teachers and 3,483 females. By a calculation of our own, we find that the average salary of each teacher throughout the Province is \$313—just one dollar less than in