

EXPENDITURE.	—	Increase.	Decrease.
	\$	\$	\$
Old Co. Board 1st	372	.....	39
“ 2nd	139	.....	24
“ 3rd	51	22	.....
New Co. Board 3rd	3,688	136	.....
Interim	493	.....	46
Number of Schools open	5,042	208	.....
Number of School-houses	4,926	68	.....
Brick	1,417	185	.....
Stone	514	22	.....
Frame	2,253	136	.....
Log	742	.....	275
Number of School Visits	90,981	5,421	.....
Number of Schools opened and closed with prayer	4,173	159	.....
Number of Schools using Maps	4,603	104	.....
Number of Maps in Schools	36,874	1,485	.....
Average time Public Schools open	11 mo 14 d's	3 days	.....
Number of Roman Catholic Separate Schools	167	11	.....
Receipts of Roman Catholic Separate Schools	\$106,483	\$15,856	.....
Number of Pupils, Roman Catholic Separate Schools	25,294	2,621	.....
Average attendance, Roman Catholic Separate Schools	12,779	1,005	.....

We refer, with feelings of approval, to the amendments to the School Law, recently introduced by you to the Legislature, respecting provision to be made for the training of teachers. It is one of the most urgent needs of our school system at the present time; and we hail with satisfaction the increased importance this subject is assuming under the encouragement and countenance afforded by you to conventions of teachers like the present, as well as by the recent Legislative enactments.

In the hope that the proceedings about to commence may prove of interest to you, by affording some insight into the nature of the school teacher's work, and the difficulties that usually beset him, as your presence here to-day stimulates and encourages us. We again bid you welcome to the meeting of our Association.

Signed, on behalf of the Association,

J. B. SOMERSET,
President.

Mr. Crooks made a suitable reply.

A large and appreciative audience assembled in the City Hall last (Friday) evening to listen to an address from Hon. Adam Crooks, Minister of Education. The audience was principally composed of the school teachers who are at present in St. Catharines attending the County Convention, and others who are the friends of, and take an interest in, the Educational Institutions of the Province. On the platform we noticed, in addition to the Hon. lecturer, the Mayor, Calvin Brown, Esq., J. B. Somerset, County Inspector; Dr. Comfort, City Inspector; Mr. Seath, Principal of the Collegiate Institute; Mr. A. Jeffrey, Mr. J. D. Hawes, Mr. Hipple, and many other trustees and teachers whose names we did not learn.

On motion the Mayor took the chair, and in an appropriate speech, in which he expressed the pleasure he felt in being called to preside on that occasion, and also in the progress which public education had made, and contrasting the school buildings and appliances of the present day with those of the past as he remembered them, and complimenting the Hon. Minister of Education on the success which had resulted from his administration, he introduced that gentleman to the meeting.

Mr. Crooks arose, and in an address replete with information, historical and statistical, reviewed the School System of Ontario, and pointed out clearly and distinctly the great advantages which it possessed over every other. He said he appeared before them by request, and expressed his high sense of the great importance of education as a public matter, and his great pleasure in the interest which was so signally manifested in its progress. He spoke of the effects of ignorance in producing crime, and the influence of education in preventing it. He said the education of our youth and the intelligence resulting therefrom were necessary to the material progress of the country. He mentioned the great services rendered to the cause of education by Dr. Ryerson, and the change which had occurred in its being placed in charge of a Minister responsible to the Legislature. He alluded to his own position as Minister of Education, and his call to study what to him was a new system, and although he did not speak in a boastful manner, he felt free to assert that the Educational System of Ontario was unequalled in the world, and declared that whether he himself or another held the position, they were all bound to see that the interests committed to their care did not suffer in their keeping. He pointed out the universality of the system, and said that in this Province the way to education and the highest positions were open to every youth. He said the great requisite to its success was the attendance at our schools. He alluded to the compulsory clauses of the School Act, but showed how much might be done by Trustees and Inspectors and others in their influence with parents in securing the attendance of children without invoking the law. He referred to the School Laws and Regulations of England, Scotland, and other nationalities, and the superior advantages enjoyed by the people of Ontario over them in their social and domestic position. He then glanced at the facilities offered by our High Schools, Collegiate Institutes and Universities for acquiring a higher education, saying that the system required every child to be educated and afforded the opportunity. He spoke of the effects of education in forming the character of a people, and expressed the hope that it might soon be said of Ontario as was said of Saxony, that there could not be found in it a child of twelve years of age who could not read and write.

The Hon. gentleman was listened to throughout his address very attentively, and sat down amidst the applause of all present.

Mr. J. D. Hawes, of St. Davids, then stepped forward, and after addressing the Chairman, asked on behalf of the Public School Teachers of the County, to be permitted to transact a little business, and read the following

MEMO.—The increase of Receipts and Expenditure, although less than usual, is nevertheless, considering the existing monetary and commercial depression of the year 1876, satisfactory. *Teachers' salaries*, which, at the time of the passing of the School Act of 1871, were, for males, \$449; for females, \$224; are now \$533 and \$268,—an increase in the former case of \$84, and in the latter of \$44 per teacher. The amount paid for teachers' salaries in 1871 was \$1,191,476; and in 1876, \$1,838,322—being an increase of \$646,846. The sum expended on school-houses, although it has decreased \$72,064 in 1876, has greatly increased during the past six years. For instance, in 1871, \$261,833 were expended on school-houses; in 1876, \$630,265,—being an increase of \$368,432—while in quality the comparison is equally gratifying. There were, in 1871, 898 Brick school-houses, 425 Stone, 1,928 Frame, 1,425 Log; in 1876, 1,417 Brick, 514 Stone, 2,253 Frame, 742 Log; increase, 519 Brick, 89 Stone, 325 Frame, while the number of log houses has been diminished by no less than 683. *Daily and average attendance* in 1876 exhibit a very fair progress, as also the number of pupils in the different branches of education. Of *Certificates*, *Old County Board* and *Interim* have decreased; the higher class *Certificates* have increased. The average time of keeping the schools open has also increased three days.

II. Proceedings of Teachers' Conventions.

1. LECTURE AND PRESENTATION.

The Hon. Adam Crooks, Minister of Education, arrived in this City on Friday, to take part in the Teachers' Institute proceedings. He was met by a deputation at the station, and on arrival at the school, he was presented with the following address by J. B. Somerset, Esq., County Inspector, on behalf of the teachers:—

ST. CATHARINES, May, 1877.

To the Hon. Adam Crooks, M.P.P., Minister of Education for Ontario:—

SIR,—The Lincoln Teachers' Association, on behalf of the Public and High School Teachers of the Niagara District, beg to offer you a cordial welcome on this your first visit, as Minister of Education, to our City and County.

We desire to convey to you our congratulations on your accession to the control of the Educational interests of the Province; and this we are enabled to do the more heartily, as your administration, during your short term of office, has been characterized by an earnest desire on your part to make yourself familiar with the duties that belong to your responsible position, and an intelligent comprehension of the condition and the wants of our schools.

We have confidence that the Educational System, devised and established by your venerable and worthy predecessor, will, under your management, be so perfected as fully to meet the requirements of this enlightened and progressive country.