



## QUEBEC'S EDUCATION RECORD.

### The Curriculum. The School Attendance. The Financial Position.

The report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the Province of Quebec, the Hon. Boucher de La Bruere, for the scholastic year 1897-'98, has just been issued. It is by far the most elaborate, extensive and complete report of the kind which has yet been published in this Province. Additional importance is lent to the report by the fact that the new Central Board of Catholic Examiners has replaced the local boards of examiners, with the result that a marked improvement has been effected in the ranks of the teachers, owing to a change in the method of examining candidates. The Catholic Committee, too, during the course of the year, revised the curriculum, the course of study in the public schools under the control of the committee being now as follows:—

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:—** Elementary course, Grades I. and II. Subjects: Moral and religious instruction, French, English, (for schools in which as much attention is given to English as to French), writing, arithmetic, geography, history, drawing, and "useful knowledge." These subjects are for the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth years, inclusively; and they are thus described for the third and fourth years:—

**Third year:—** Catechism. Reading.—Special attention to be given to proper tone; meaning of words and sentences; oral resumes of lessons.

**Grammar:—**First principles given orally; the noun, adjective, pronoun, and verb (first elements of conjugation). Formation of the plural of the feminine; agreement of the adjective with the noun, of the verb with its subject. The simple sentence. Parsing generally oral. Separation of the simple sentence into its essential elements.

**Composition:—**Making of easy sentences with given elements. Letter writing.—Short letters on the simplest subjects.

**Reading:—**Special attention to be given to the pleasantness and brightness of tones. Oral resumes of lessons.

**Oral spelling.** Dictation. Translation. The making of short easy sentences. Copy writing.

**Exercise copy-books.** Notation and numeration completed. Review of the four simple rules, — fractions.

**Practical problems.** Accounts. Invoices.

**Mental Arithmetic.** Tables of weights and measures in most common use.

**Multiplication and division tables.** Geography.—Geographical terms and definitions.—The Province of Quebec; the other Provinces of Canada, to be studied principally on maps.

**Sacred history,** published in a text-book, History of Canada, outlines, orally. Drawing from objects, easy geometrical and ornamental designs, unshaded. Object lessons:—names of principal parts of the human body, of the principal animals of the Province, of food plants and other common plants (trees, flowers, etc.); names and uses of common articles (clothing, materials of dwellings, tools, etc.); stones and metals; the pupils to compare and distinguish colors, shades, forms; lengths, weights, temperatures, sounds, smells, tastes. Agriculture, oral lessons.

**Fourth year:—** Catechism. Reading with special attention to proper tones. Oral and written resumes of lessons.

**Memorizing and reciting easy selections.** Grammar.—The parts of speech; the elements of syntax.—Dictation, exercises on the rules. Language lessons.—Parsing. Separation of sentences into clauses.—Composition.—Letters, easy narrations and descriptions.

**Reading:—**Special attention to be given to pleasantness and brightness of tones. Oral resumes of lessons. Oral spelling. Dictation, translation.

**Copy writing.** Exercise copy-books. Review of the work of the preceding year.—Reduction. The compound rules.

**Practical problems.** Mental Arithmetic.—Table of weights and measures. Book-keeping, receipts and disbursements of a family, accounts, invoices, receipts, bills or notes.

**Geography:—**Canada and other countries of America. The continents and oceans. Map drawing.—first attempts.

**Sacred history, continuation.** Reading of "The Christian's Duty," with explanations. History of Canada, studied in a text-book; principal personages and events. Drawing from objects; notions on colors. Object lessons, as in the third year. Agriculture, oral lessons; the teacher reads and explains a manual on the subject.

**MODEL SCHOOLS:—** Fifth year.—In this year the "moral and religious instruction" is described as "catechism and Latin reading." The other subjects are:—

**Expressive Reading:—** Oral resumes of lessons read. Memorizing.—Committing to memory and reciting interesting and simple selections from the best prose and poetry.

**Grammar:—**Review of elements. Syntax.—Dictation exercises.—Parsing.—General principles of logic analysis.

**Letter Writing:—**Familiar letters, business letters, recits, descriptions, narrations.

**Expressive Reading:—**Spelling and meaning of words of the reading lessons.—Dictation.—Translation. Writing of stories read or related by teacher.

**Letter Writing:—**Letters, narrations. Copy writing. Exercise copy-books.

**Review common fractions, decimal fractions, and compound rules.** The unitary method, elementary percentage, simple interest, miscellaneous problems, mental arithmetic.

**Elementary mensuration.** Book-keeping.—Double entry. Europe and Asia.

**Map drawing.** Canadian history.—French rule; sacred history, general review. Drawing. Object lessons and written resumes: commerce, industry, navigation, hygiene, etc. Canadian civics. Agriculture, oral lessons.

**Sixth year:—** Catechism. Latin reading. Expressive Reading.—Oral resumes of lessons read.

**Reciting selections from the best prose and poetry.** Grammar.—Review syntax. Parsing and logical analysis.

**First principles of literature.** Letters, narrations, descriptions. Expressive Reading. Dictation, translation.

**Writing stories read or related by teacher.** Grammar and analysis. Letter Writing.—Letters, narrations descriptions.

**Copy writing.** Exercise copy-books. Review of work of the preceding year.

**Percentage and its application; commission, discount, insurance, interest, profit and loss, etc.** Miscellaneous problems.

**Mensuration.—**Mensuration of surfaces. Book-keeping.—Double entry.

**Review of preceding year.—**Africa, Oceania.—Review Canada. Map drawing.

**Canadian history, English rule.** Sacred history, general review. Drawing. Object lessons, same as in fifth year. Manners and the rules of good behaviour are to be taught simultaneously to all children placed under one teacher. They must be taught by reading or conversation.

**In all their lessons teachers are "to endeavor to form their pupils to habits of virtue, of good manners, etc., of correct language."**

**THE ACADEMY:—**The seventh and eighth years bring us to the Academy, where the subjects already mentioned are divided as follows:—

**Seventh year:—** Catechism. Expressive Reading.—Elocution, declamation. Grammar, complete.—Logical analysis.

**Literature.—**Qualities of style.—Figures.—Letters, narrations, descriptions. Reading and recitation of selections from best prose and verse. Dictation, translation. Grammar.—Analysis.

**Literature.—**Letters, narrations, descriptions. Copy writing. Exercise copy-books.

**Percentage, general review.** Square root, cube root. Practical exercises.—Mental arithmetic.

**Review of mensuration of surfaces.** Algebra.—general definitions, algebraic addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Equations of the first degree.

**Book-keeping.—**Double entry. Commercial correspondence. General review. Use of globes. Map drawing. History of the Church, to the Crusades.

**Canadian History, review.** French History, principal events. Drawing.

**Agriculture.—**A regular course of oral lessons on agriculture. Elements of philosophy, of physics, of geology and of botany.

**Political Economy (for boys).—**Canadian Civics. The agricultural, forest, mining and industrial products of Canada. Its internal and foreign trade.

**Domestic Economy (for girls.)** Eighth year:— Catechism.

**Expressive Reading:—**Elocution, declamation. Grammar, complete.—Logical analysis.

**Literature.—**Qualities of style.—Figures.

**Literary analysis.—**Letters, narrations, descriptions.

**Expressive Reading:—**Dictation, translation. Grammar.—Analysis.

**Literature.—**Letters, narrations, descriptions. Copy writing.

**Exercise copy-books.** General review. Miscellaneous exercises. Mental arithmetic.

**Mensuration of surfaces and solids; algebra to equations of second degree inclusive.** Book-keeping.—Double entry.

**Commercial correspondence.** General review. Terrestrial Globe.

**Practical lessons on elements of cosmography.** Map drawing.

**History of the Church, from the Crusades to the present time.** History, principal events.

**United States History.** Drawing.

**Agriculture philosophy, etc., political and domestic economy, the same as in the seventh year.**

**THE PROVINCE'S SCHOOLS:—**From the voluminous and well classified statistics contained in the report we find that the total number of educational institutions in the Province is 5,863, divided as follows: Elementary, 5,127, with 204,259 pupils; model schools, 531, with 69,832 pupils; academies, 153, with 30,106 pupils; normal schools, 3, with 348 pupils; schools annexed to normal schools, 5, with 970 pupils; Catholic classical colleges, 19, with 5,474 pupils; Protestant Colleges, 8, with 83 pupils; universities, 4, with 2,183 pupils; schools for the deaf, dumb, and blind, 4, with 535 pupils; schools of art and design, 7, with 821 pupils, and schools of agriculture, 4, with 116 pupils. In the elementary schools the percentage of attendance is 70.33; in the model schools, 82.36; and in the academies, 85.80.

The total number of pupils enrolled was, during 1897-'98, 314,727; the average attendance being 236,480—a

percentage of 75.13. The number of pupils whose mother tongue was French was 256,669; English, 47,528.

**THE TEACHERS** in the elementary and model schools and the academies number: male teachers in Catholic schools, 273, male teachers in Protestant schools, 131; female teachers in Catholic schools, 4,621, female teachers in Protestant schools, 1,263—total, 6,288. Of the 273 male teachers in Catholic schools, 32 have no certificates; and of the 131 male teachers in Protestant schools, 17 have no certificates. The salaries of Catholic teachers still leave much room for improvement. Lay professors teaching in universities, normal schools, and special schools number 358, bringing the total number of lay teachers up to 6,616. The religious teachers (including 866 Christian Brothers and 2,432 nuns) number 3,347, so that the grand total of teachers in the Province, both lay and religious, is 10,493.

The total amount of property in the Province taxable for school purposes is \$127,532,923. The contributions of the Government totaled \$147,650; and the contributions of municipalities, reached 2,608,121. The number of pensioners is 549, their average age being 52; their average number of years of service 22, the average number of years as pensioners, 06. The amount paid out was \$39,296, being an average of \$71.58 each.

In the city of Montreal the number of school houses is 93; the value of taxable property is \$128,110,236; the municipal contributions to the schools \$405,669, the Government contribution, \$56,178; and the value of school houses and furniture, \$6,246,992. The number of Catholic pupils is 247,763.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY, ST. ANN'S PARISH, MONTREAL.**

Some time ago, in alluding to St. Mary's Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the "True Witness" dwelt upon the highly meritorious work of practical Catholic charity which the members of the Society perform regularly and without ostentation. At the entertainment in St. Ann's Parish of which a report is printed elsewhere in this issue the Rev. Father Strubbe, C.S.S.R., the zealous pastor of the parish, read a few figures showing the good work which St. Ann's Conference has been doing during the past 18 months. St. Ann's and St. Mary's are the only Irish parishes in the city in which conferences of St. Vincent de Paul exist; and great credit is due to the pastors and to the members of the conferences for their noble and self-sacrificing work.

The statement is as follows:—

**Statement for the last 18 months:—**

**RECEIPTS.**

Balance of previous year	\$109.33
Proceeds of concert	107.35
Charity sermons	266.25
Conference collections	47.63
Interest on deposits	6.16
Donations	148.71
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2021.43</b>

**DISBURSEMENTS.**

Rent	\$571.00
Coke and Coal	450.35
Bread	550.10
Tea	57.42
School books	45.92
Boots	119.35
Groceries	5.73
First Com. Suits	27.25
Cash	82.50
Sundries	6.25
Expenses of Concert	21.85
Balance	83.71
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2021.43</b>

**CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL NOTES.**

In our report of the meeting of the Incorporators of the Irish Catholic High School, which appeared in our last issue, we inadvertently omitted the name of Mr. Thomas Hefferman, one of the stalwart workers in St. Mary's Parish, who was named to act upon the advisory sub-committee in conjunction with the building committee appointed by the Governors to deal with the question of pushing on the work of the interior of the building.

The ladies are now working very earnestly in connection with the preliminaries for the Bazaar which the "True Witness" has already announced. From present indications there will be many new and novel features introduced in the great undertaking.

## RECENT HAPPENINGS IN EUROPE.

Authentic information has come to hand regarding the proceedings of the conference of Irish National members of Parliament, on the subject of reunion, which was recently held in Dublin. Fifty-six members of Parliament took part in the conference, and letters explanatory of absence, and regretting the cause of it, were read from over half a dozen other members. Mr. Timothy Harrington, Parnellite, was elected chairman unanimously; and Mr. James J. O'Kelly, another Parnellite, took part in the proceedings. Mr. Timothy Healy, his brother, and his father-in-law, Mr. T. D. Sullivan, were also present as was also Canada's distinguished son, the Hon. Edward Blake. The proceedings were more harmonious than was expected, the only note of discord raised being that to which Mr. Healy gave utterance, when he declined to act on a committee of six proposed for the purpose of having a personal interview with Mr. John Redmond and the eight other members who refused to attend the conference. Mr. Blake and Mr. Dillon declined to serve on this committee unless Mr. Healy would also serve; and although several appeals were made to Mr. Healy to consent to be a member of the committee, that gentleman persisted in declining on the ground of "personal temperament." He stated, however, that he would adhere to and respect any arrangements made by the conference; and this was a victory for unity, considering the quarrel from which the statement came.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted, on the motion of Mr. John Dillon:—

All Irish Nationalists to be united in one party on the principle and constitution of the old Parnellite Party, as it existed from 1885 to 1890.

"The main object of the united party to be to secure for Ireland a measure of Home Rule at least as ample as that embodied in the Bills of 1886 and 1893."

"The party also to fight on the old lines for the redress of all Irish grievances, notably those connected with the Land, Labor, Taxation, and Education."

"That since a genuine reunion involves a real reconciliation we declare our view that all the adherents of a reunited party should accord to and receive from each other recognition and standing based on past public services to Ireland irrespective of the course any adherent may have felt it his duty to take since the division of 1890; and that the reunited party and its adherents should exercise all legitimate influence, fully recognizing the rights of every constituency to select its own candidates, in favor of the adoption of this principle in the selection of candidates for Parliament and party offices, and as the earliest practical exemplification of the spirit of this resolution this meeting mainly composed of those belonging to the larger party, declare its readiness to support the choice of a member of the Parnellite Party as first Chairman of the United Party."

As to the action of the small minority of nine, in refusing to aid the cause of national unity, the remarks made by Mr. J. J. O'Kelly, the most distinguished member of the Parnellite party, are very significant. He declared frankly that he "regretted that members of the party with which he generally acted were not present, and he desired that the responsibility should be placed upon their shoulders of dealing with this question. It depended on them after the proceedings of that day whether unity was to be restored or not. The full responsibility of that action should be left to them. Another conference will be held soon, at which, it is confidently stated, all the nationalist members will be present. The conference was a great triumph for the cause of unity, the most convincing evidence of this fact being the hostile and mocking tone adopted by the anti-national press in its remarks concerning the celebrated gathering. "True Witness" would not be surprised if Mr. Timothy Harrington, Parnellite, who has all along exercised his powerful advocacy in behalf of a reunion of the Nationalist forces, were chosen as the first chairman of the reunited Irish Parliamentary Party.

One result of the recent agitation in England against what is known

as Ritualism is the establishment of a "new movement" by the Evangelical body which calls itself the Church Association. All that the Church Association could get from Parliament was a resolution deprecating the profferment of Ritualistic clergymen to higher offices in the Established Church. This does not please the ultra-Protestants of whom the association is composed, for they know well that the resolution means nothing. They have therefore started a department called the National Protestant League, to fight the Protestant Ritualists, to organize branches in all English constituencies for the purpose of opposing candidates favorable to Ritualism, and generally to affirm ultra-Protestant principles. If the League would confine its attention to the Protestant Ritualists nobody would feel inclined to quarrel with it except these latter gentlemen; but as it proposes to fight against Mr. Balfour's scheme for giving Ireland a Catholic University and also against the bill enabling Chancellors to hold the offices of Lord Chancellor of England and Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, it will be seen that it has undertaken a very large contract. As its leading principle is antagonistic to freedom of conscience, it may safely be predicted that it will have little influence with right-thinking men. Its assumption of the name "National Protestant" is ridiculous, since it represents only a noisy minority of the Established Church Protestants. The non-conformists, or dissenters, have of course nothing to do with it.

The British budget showed the deficit anticipated in these columns a few weeks ago, and although public opinion has had the effect of forcing the Government to modify its extravagant naval and military propositions, the great central fact confronts the taxpayers of the United Kingdom that during the four years that the Salisbury Government has been in office it has spent an extra war material of different kinds \$100,000,000. This extravagance in a time of "profound European peace" will be an important factor at the next general elections.

The presence of the Sovereign Pontiff on Saturday last, at the Mass of Thanksgiving offered up in St. Peter's on the occasion of the twenty-first anniversary of his coronation as Pope, was an additional proof that His Holiness enjoys good health. The Rome correspondents of British and other journals affect to believe otherwise, for some particular reason—probably because their former dispatches on the subject have been proved to have been false. Their pens are busy, too, with "the next Pope," although they have not of course the remotest idea as to the name of the Cardinal who will succeed Leo XIII. in the See of St. Peter.

On Easter Saturday, His Grace Archbishop Farfelli conferred the Holy Order of Priesthood upon Rev. John E. Murphy, of Charlottetown, P. E. I., Rev. J. C. Stuart, of Dubuque, Iowa, and that of Subdeaconship upon Rev. Louis Rodier, of Worcester, Mass. His Grace was assisted at the altar by Rev. Fathers Leclair and Labrosse. Rev. Father Murphy said his first Mass on Easter Sunday in St. Stanislaus Room. In the afternoon he was celebrant at Solemn Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament in the College Chapel. In the same chapel at 8.30 a.m., Easter Sunday, Rev. Father Stuart sang High Mass. The young celebrant was assisted by Rev. Father Leclair and also by Rev. Father Lamontagne, as Deacon and Rev. Mr. Rodier as sub-deacon.

Besides the reverend directors and students of the Canadian College, there were also present at these soul-stirring ceremonies, and family festivities, Mgr. Dr. Pauw, and Rev. Fathers Louis, of the Trappist Order, Daly, of Galway, Ire., O'Hearn, Milwaukee, Wis., Maturin, London, England, Hayes, Hughes and Cummings from the residence of the Procurator in Rome of the Sulpician Fathers, and Rev. Messrs. McGrail and Brophy, Seminary of Aix, France.

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It is a perfectly safe proposition that without the thoughtfulness which is otherwise named tact no one can find the fullest measure of success and pleasure in life.