

in attendance; this is one of the parishes in which I have remarked the most progress. The teachers are competent and exhibit skill in teaching; the children are regular, and the commissioners zealous. Under these circumstances the result cannot be otherwise than good.

The local contributions amount, for the year, to \$699, and the salaries of the teachers vary from \$60 to \$176. Accounts well kept.

I have now only to make a few remarks on the following subjects:—

1st. Writing is the branch of instruction which is most neglected in the schools. I insist strongly on good handwriting, and I endeavor to convince teachers and scholars of its importance; but I am persuaded that no good results will follow so long as writing is taught without any system, and the tables used are so unsuitable.

2nd. The custom of removing the children from school at too early a period is most prejudicial to the progress of education, and this is the great fault in my district. Going to school at six years of age, the small boy leaves it at 10 or 11, just when he is beginning to make progress. Little girls are kept longer at school because it is proposed to make teachers of them, and nothing is neglected so far as they are concerned; they are even sent to the superior schools, but the boys are almost invariably deprived of the advantages of the superior schools, where they might acquire knowledge that would be of use to them and of which they are forever deprived.

3rd. The too large number of subjects of instruction is another great evil. A child who, between the ages of six and eleven years, is required to learn reading, writing, arithmetic, catechism, a little grammar, and some idea of the history of Canada, has, it seems to me, enough to do; but if he is required at the same time to learn a geography of 300 or 400 pages, the history of France, and sometimes Ecclesiastical history, it may easily be conceived that he will have learned nothing properly, and that his education will be almost useless; yet this is done in many elementary schools, to the great prejudice of the children, and to the discontent of all parents who have any discernment.

I conclude my report with a summary of the statistics which I transmit herewith, as follows: 108 sections in 16 school municipalities, containing 81 school-houses, 106 schools under the control of commissioners and under my inspection, having a total attendance of 5,440 children. Out of 106 schools under control, there are four academies, two in the county of Nicolet (for boys only), and two in the county of Yamaska (for boys and girls), with 350 pupils; three model schools, two in the county of Nicolet (one for boys and the other mixed), and one in the county of Yamaska (mixed), with 285 pupils; four superior schools for girls, all in the county of Nicolet, with 215 pupils.

There are also within my district: 1 classical college, with 250 pupils; 1 convent, with 80 pupils; 5 independent schools, with 115 pupils. All these educational institutions exhibit a total of 5,885 pupils.

The schools are in charge of 11 male teachers, all furnished with diplomas, and 95 female teachers, all, with one exception, furnished with diplomas; the male teachers receiving salaries ranging from \$100 to \$400, and the female teachers from \$40 to \$200.

The local contributions amount to \$10,146 05.

Extract from Mr. BOIVIN'S Report for 1862.

COUNTIES OF CHARLEVOIX AND SAGUENAY.

This district of inspection contained 49 schools of all grades, which are classed as follows in the report: Elementary schools 43, Model schools 4, one Academy for girls and one Convent school.

The number of pupils frequenting all these establishments was 2433, being an average of about 50 pupils to each, and an increase of 355 on the number returned for the previous year.

The law was satisfactorily carried out in most municipalities of the district, and the schools were generally well conducted.

The statistics accompanying the report show that the number of children attending school in the county of Charlevoix had considerably increased since 1861, the number being as one to six and a-half compared with the whole population—a very large proportion for a scattered population in a territory so extensive.

The Report also states that many contributed liberally and, in fact, actually imposed upon themselves heavy burthens for the purpose of securing the services of able teachers. They were apparently convinced now that teachers hired at very low salaries were generally incompetent to discharge the duties required of

them. The maximum salaries now allowed in this district of inspection reached \$440 for male, and \$200 for female teachers. This was, no doubt, a fair result and reflected great credit on the inhabitants of the counties of Charlevoix and Saguenay. While some of the old parishes remained stationary, new localities, almost unknown a few years ago, and whose inhabitants were comparatively poor, did not hesitate to lay themselves under the heaviest contributions for the education of their children. It was by such laudable exertions that the inhabitants of other counties, as for instance those of Gaspé and Ottawa, had now reached that progressive state which promised so much for the future.

Notices of Books and Publications.

HIND.—Explorations in the Interior of the Labrador Peninsula, the Country of the Montagnais and Na-quapee Indians; By Henry Youle Hind, M. A., F. R. G. S. Longman, Publisher, London; 1863. 2 vols. 8vo, xxviii. 655 pp. Price \$6.

These two beautiful volumes recall to mind the same author's account of his expeditions to the Red River and the Saskatchewan published some years ago. In the *Journal of Education* for July and August last will be found some extracts from the present work, borrowed from the *British American Magazine*, in which they had been published in advance, under the title of *Sketches of Indian Life*.

Professor Hind estimates the importance of the Labrador Peninsula in his preface as follows:

"The Labrador Peninsula, with the coast and islands of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, possesses a colonial and imperial interest which can scarcely be over-estimated in contemplating the possible future of British North America.

"The annual value of the Fisheries in British American waters exceeds four millions sterling, besides being the best nursery for seamen 'the world ever saw.'

"The fisheries on the Atlantic coast of Labrador alone yield a yearly return of at least one million sterling; and yet, since the destruction of the town of Brest, at the Gulf entrance of the Straits of Belle Isle, more than two hundred years ago, no attempts have been made to form settlements on an extensive scale on or near the coast.

"In the great interior valleys, some ten or fifteen miles from the coast, timber fit for building purposes and fuel exists in abundance, and the climate and soil admit of the successful cultivation of all common culinary vegetables.

"West of the Mingan Islands large areas exist suitable for settlement. Limestones and sandstones occupy the coast, and extend about ten miles back over a space of eighty miles on the Straits of Belle Isle, and great facilities exist in many other places for the establishment of permanent curing establishments, by which an annual saving of more than a quarter of a million sterling would be secured at the outset, with the prospect of an indefinite increase. Local establishments for the supply of salt, food, and all the requirements of a vast fishing trade, are particularly demanded on the Gulf and Atlantic coasts.

"The British American Fisheries will eventually acquire a wholly unlooked-for importance by direct trade with the Southern States for cured fish, upon the return of peace, and with the great valley of the Mississippi for fresh salt-water fish conveyed in ice. The connection of the pre-ent terminus of the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada at Rivière-du-Loup with the Bay of Chaleurs would bring the rich briny treasures of the Gulf within easy reach of the cities of the Western States.

"As a nursery for seamen the great North American Fisheries have no equal, and the day will yet arrive when the hitherto desolate shores of Labrador, north, east, and west, will possess a resident population capable of contributing largely to the comfort and prosperity of more favoured countries."

BUCHANAN.—The Relations of the Industry of Canada with the Mother Country and the United States; By Isaac Buchanan, Esq., M.P.P. Edited by Henry J. Morgan. Lovell, Publisher, Montreal, 1864.—8vo, 546 pp.

The above is a collection of speeches and written articles on the subject mentioned in the title, by the Hon. Mr. Buchanan, the representative for Hamilton, and now President of the Executive Council. The work is embellished with a portrait of the author and two curious allegorical designs, figurative of the wealth and resources of the British Empire and bearing the following mottoes respectively, "*Actum est de Republica*," and "*Res secundæ*."