

cation. If one-half of the children enrolled in our schools never pass beyond the fourth grade, the course of study for these grades should comprehend, as far as may be possible, the fundamental essentials of a practical education, and should not comprehend more. An examination of the table will show how far this ideal is being reached."

Dr. Inch while emphasizing the importance of the training given in primary grades, does not wish the inference to be drawn that the importance of attention to the higher grades is only in proportion to the number of pupils enrolled in those grades. He justly remarks:

"Of the children entering school in any given year, the five per cent. who pass through all the grades to the high schools, and some of them to the university, may be of greater value to the country than the ninety-five per cent. who drop out of school after a shorter course; for, from this small minority must be drawn our teachers and our intellectual leaders in every department of thought and activity."

A very satisfactory feature in the report is the gradual increase shown in the relative number of first and second class teachers. Female teachers number 73 per cent. of the whole number employed which for the year was 1702. In the matter of teachers' salaries the report is not so satisfactory. There has been a decrease in the remuneration of all classes of teachers except third class male, which each year are becoming fewer. About 57 per cent of the amount paid for teachers' salaries is now derived from the provincial revenue and the county fund. This condition of affairs calls forth from the Superintendent strong and deserved criticism.

"If the above figures are to be taken as an accurate measure of the value assigned by the ratepayers of the province to the work done in our schools, it is manifest that there is clamant need of enlightenment, if not immediate legislation of some sort. With advancement in most other directions, and with more rigid requirements of teachers as to scholarship and training, they receive no better salaries than were paid twelve years ago; and yet complaint is made that many of the best teachers leave the profession after a few years' service. Perhaps the fault rests more with trustees than with the general body of ratepayers; for it is unfortunately true that in some cases the only interest shown by trustees in the schools is to keep them closed as long as possible, and when compelled to open them, to employ the cheapest teachers obtainable without regard to the educational needs of the district. A more summary method than the law provides seems necessary in order to prevent school trustees from thwarting the purposes for which the school law was enacted. It is true that many districts throughout the province are so poor and so sparsely populated that even with the special provincial grant provided in such cases, they are obliged to rest satisfied with school privileges for only a part of the school year, and with teachers who are willing to accept a very small remuneration. This is a disadvantage incident to pioneer life, and cannot be helped,

but districts which have an assessable valuation of \$20,000 and upwards are well able to maintain a school permanently and to employ at a reasonable salary teachers of a class not lower than the second."

The total amount levied from all sources for the support of schools during the year was \$421,383.60. The average cost per pupil was \$6.06, which is comparatively very low, and leaves room for very much extended local effort.

The Superintendent's remarks and recommendations regarding grammar and superior schools will be regarded with interest and perhaps alarm in some quarters. He makes out a strong case against the existence of many of the grammar schools and jeopardizes the ungraded superior schools. He says:

I would, therefore, recommend that after the present school year, no ungraded school be recognized as a superior school; that all superior school buildings be provided with suitable furnished apartments for at least two graded departments; and that the principal of a superior school shall be required to hold a superior school license based on evidence of scholarship higher than is required of other first class teachers; or on a successful experience of at least three years as a teacher of the first class, certified to by the inspector or inspectors.

In regard to grammar schools I beg to suggest:

1. That after the close of the year 1895 every grammar school not showing an enrolment of at least twenty pupils above grade VIII, tested by proper official examinations, shall be reduced to the rank of superior schools.
2. That it shall be the recognized policy of the Board of Education to have the grammar school located at the most populous centre within the county, or at such place as will be most likely to ensure to the school the largest possible attendance of advanced pupils.
3. That in order to encourage local effort to provide suitable buildings and equipments, and to engage a strong staff of teachers, the grammar school grant shall be paid, not only to the principal of the grammar school, but to every additional teacher holding a grammar school license whom the trustees may employ to do grammar school work, at a salary from the district of not less than that received from the provincial revenues.

"It is probable that the policy I have outlined would tend to leave some of the counties without a grammar school; but it would certainly tend to strengthen and develop those which are in the best position to do high school work; would remove anomalies which now exist, and would, in my opinion, give an impulse to the interests of secondary education which would be of benefit to the province at large."

The new scheme of normal school entrance examinations is referred to as having been most satisfactory so far, though the receipts did not equal the expenditure. At least 175 of the schools of the province were represented by candidates.

Local license has been mainly confined to the French speaking counties, from whence it seems im-