

sessional papers printed by the legislature that a stricter enforcement of the law which requires local municipalities to report to the central authorities is necessary for complete efficiency. For example, the recorder of statistics remarks in one place : "So many municipalities have neglected to send in a report of births and deaths that we hesitate to place before our readers a comparative table of marriage rates of other countries and of the province of Quebec. We do so, however, to awaken, if possible, the apathy of those who are the immediate cause of the defect in our statistics."

*Education.*

The system of separate schools for Roman Catholics and Protestants prevails in the province. In any school municipality any number of ratepayers professing a religious belief different from that of the majority may form a separate corporation for school purposes under the administration of trustees. Educational affairs are under the supervision of a Council of Public Instruction, consisting of members appointed by the provincial Government. The council is divided into two committees, one composed of Roman Catholic, the other of Protestant members. Each of these committees appoints its chairman and secretary, and makes regulations for the organization, administration and discipline of its section of the public schools, including the division of the province into districts for inspection, the regulating of normal schools, text books, boards of examiners, and like matters. The nominal head of the department of public instruction is the Superintendent of Education, who is *ex officio* a member of the council, and whose duty it is to distribute according to law the legislative grants for educational institutions. He is also the statistician and intermediary between educational bodies and the legislature. For educational purposes the province is divided into school municipalities under the control of school commissioners; and these municipalities are again subdivided into school districts, no one of which must exceed five miles in length and breadth. The Education Act (62 Vic. cap. 28) provides machinery for the annual election of commissioners or trustees,