

Official Report.

THE HON. GÉDEON OUINET,

Superintendent.

SHERBROOKE, 2nd July, 1890.

Sir,—I have the honor to submit my annual report and statistical table for the year just closed.

The general prevalence during winter of a severe epidemic, and the unusually bad weather and roads during a large part of the year, have rendered it exceptionally unfavorable for the success of schools and school inspection. Though so fortunate as to escape the epidemic myself, I found its effects almost everywhere I visited. In many cases, schools had to be closed, at least temporarily, owing to the illness of teachers and pupils, and in very many cases, the attendance was seriously affected, both by prevailing illness, and the state of the weather and roads. The latter cause rendered the work of inspection unusually difficult; and the difficulty was increased by the still somewhat prevalent irregularity in the length and arrangement of the school year; for, though there has been some improvement in that regard, there is still considerable variation in the time of vacations. I have to repeat what I said last year: that although I have not been able strictly to carry out the regulations in regard to visiting, *I have done what I could*; and I think I have succeeded better than during the previous year.

Notwithstanding the unfavorable circumstances above referred to, there has been a slight increase in the number of schools in operation and in the aggregate attendance. I have reported the Protestant schools of 40 municipalities (the school of one reported last year, Simpson, having been united with the adjoining municipality), though one of those reported had no school.

Of these, 24 are under control of school commissioners, and 16 under dissentient trustees. I have reported 167 schools in operation under control, and 7 independent schools. Those under control may be compactly shown *by counties*, as follows:—

Counties.	No. of Municip.	No. of Schools.	No. of Pupils.
Sherbrooke (Electoral).....	4	26	1220
Stanstead (Magog).....	1	6	194
Shefford.....	14	53	1317
Richmond.....	10	49	1130
Drummond.....	10	30	581
Arthabaska (Tingwick, diss).....	1	3	54
	<hr/> 40	<hr/> 167	<hr/> 4496

Adding to the above 7 independent schools, with 450 pupils, I have a total of 174 schools and 4,946 pupils, with an average attendance reported of 3,552. Of the schools under control, 157 are classed as elementary, 6 as model schools, and 4 as academies. I have included the school at Lennoxville among the model schools, though it has not