

to shew the same steady advance which has marked the progress of our educational system during and immediately following the period of Dr. Ryerson's regime.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF
EDUCATION OF THE PROVINCE OF
QUEBEC FOR THE YEAR 1877-78.

This is a bulky volume of some 240 pages, giving a statement of the condition of education in Quebec for the period named. From it we gather that there were 234,828 pupils attending 4,209 elementary schools, under 6,072 teachers, of whom 1,167 were male. The average attendance was 180,249, which shews that 77 pupils out of every 100 attended school every school day in the year. This is 30 per cent. higher than the average attained in the public schools of Ontario. The cost of schools was \$1,712,747—made up of \$1,556,363 from local assessment, etc., and subsidies amounting to \$156,384 paid by the Government. This makes the average cost for each pupil registered \$7.30, and for each pupil in average attendance \$9.50.

Enough money is spent on each pupil to produce fair results, and if these are not forthcoming, as we are justified by the Inspector's Reports in saying they are not, it is perhaps because the teachers are so miserably paid. Indeed the professional salaries of the Province are so much a curiosity that we tabulate them for the information or amusement of our readers.

	Males.	Females.
No. of teachers who receive less than \$100 per annum.....	102	2,089
No. of teachers who receive \$100 to \$200	572	2,522
" " \$200 to \$400.	325	259
" " \$400 and over.	168	35

Can we wonder, therefore, when we find such remarks as the following in the Inspectors' Reports? "I say, therefore, that the education and instruction of boys in our country parts are almost worthless, and this because these two important matters are entrusted to young girls of from eighteen to twenty years of age." "Convents spring up here and there as if by magic. These houses are kept up by dint of great sacrifices. Why not do as much for the education of boys?

Are not the latter to be superior to the young ladies who are brought up in the convents? It should be so, but with our present system this order is reversed. Yet it would be cheaper to keep a good model school than a convent." "I have 97 female teachers, and the magnificent number of 1 male teacher, in 20 municipalities. 76 female teachers receive from \$64 to \$72 salary; 21 a little over \$100. I have done deploring, or rather I will deplore no more, the fate of most of these young ladies, for I know by experience that they are the direct authoressess of their own misfortune, and that because they take situations at the lowest price." "I regret to have to say that the teachers in general are badly paid, and this disheartens the majority of them. It is therefore desirable that the salaries should be higher, if we wish the schools to continue improving. I have especially remarked that the teachers who are properly remunerated display more zeal and energy in teaching." "There are very few primary schools which may be considered good schools, and I am all the more convinced of this, that the irregular attendance of pupils, and the want of proper knowledge of how to teach, in the teachers, are the principal reasons."

These Inspectors make serious complaints about the numerous badly built and deficiently furnished school-houses. They are greatly exercised too at the variety of text books in use.

In 1878 no Inspector got a salary of more than a \$1,000 a year.

There are 3 Normal Schools, with a staff of 49 teachers, and an attendance of 306 students. Their cost was \$60,800, which makes the average cost of each pupil amount to \$200.

The most interesting part of this volume is the Inspectors' Reports, from which we have already quoted; these will compare very favourably with those found in our own Report, not only in their literary form, but in their contents, which are of considerable educational value. Many of them bear evidence of having been written by thoughtful, experienced, cultured and earnest men. It