

cipal School Rates, forty-two and one-half per cent. from Trustees' School Assessments, and twenty-two per cent. from Clergy Reserve Funds, Balances, and other sources. In this statement we have ventured, for the sake of clearness to alter the phraseology of the synopsis in the Report, and have used that in the tables. What are called in the synopsis County Rates are those levied by Municipalities, and what are called Local Municipal Rates are those levied by School Trustees in the School Sections, etc.

The total expenditure was \$3,026,974. being an increase of \$182,702. Of this amount seventy-one per cent. was devoted to teachers' salaries, and the remainder was spent on maps, prizes, library books, sites and buildings, and rent and repair of school-houses, in all of which items there is an increase.

The total number of pupils attending school during the year was 471,512; of this number, fifty-two per cent. were boys, and forty-eight per cent. girls. There was a decrease of 4,695 boys and 61 girls. A decrease in this item has been going on since 1877, when the attendance was 490,860. It would be interesting to know to what it is due, and still more interesting to know when it is going to cease. Is it due to the withdrawal of children from school at an earlier age than formerly, or to an actual decrease in our school population? We fear to both causes, for while the decrease in school population was only 407, that in the school attendance was, as we see above, 4,756, and while the school population since 1877 has decreased 10,987, the attendance at school has decreased 19,348. The decrease for 1882 was confined to the counties; indeed the cities and towns show a positive increase, and if we take the counties by themselves, their decrease was 9,645. By a law that was passed in 1881, the parent or guardian of every child between the ages of seven and thirteen is required to cause such child to attend a public school, or other school in which efficient elementary instruction is given, for eleven weeks in each term, that is for 110 days in the year. Now this is an excellent law for making our Public

School system effective, and, if carried out, would leave little to be desired. But what says the Report before us? "The number of children between seven and thirteen years of age reported as not attending any school for 110 days during the year is 87,444. This statement is surely serious enough to awaken the attention of the Minister. It certainly awakened ours, and on referring to the tables to see where the evil lay, we were surprised to find that only the counties had made complete returns, five cities, including Toronto, and nineteen towns had made none. So that we may safely set down the number of those children who do not attend school between the prescribed ages, at 100,000. We have thus placed before us the disagreeable fact that the parents of one-fifth of our school population are allowed to violate the law with impunity. Was the legislature in earnest in 1881 in passing the compulsory law, or are we to regard it as another specimen of that fancy legislation with which the members of our Local House while away their time, reserving their more serious moments for the more important occupation of abusing each other before the country, or talking buncombe. If the law was passed with the serious purpose of being carried out, why has it been allowed to remain a dead letter? Cannot the Minister, with the aid of the Inspectors, make some effort to check an evil which, if allowed to continue, will in future years leave its blight upon the education of the country?

The next statement that meets us is that 8,086 children between the ages of seven and thirteen attended no school whatever during the year, but, upon again referring to the tables, we find that only two out of the ten cities, and those, too, with the smallest school population, and only fourteen out of sixty-five towns make returns of this class. The above number, therefore, does not give at all an adequate idea of the proportion of our school population that is allowed to grow up without any training, except what the evil associations of the streets and lanes afford. We have repeatedly urged the necessity of industrial training as the only means of