

From this statement it appears that 457 municipalities have by "additional contribution" exceeded the amount of their share of the grant; which will only leave 33 municipalities that have not furnished by assessment or voluntary contributions (independently of the monthly fees and taxes for the erection of school houses,) a sum more than equal to that granted by the Government.

In 120 municipalities the amount of additional contributions equals the ordinary assessment, in some even it far exceeds it, in 105 others it exceeds the half.

In reference to the examination of teachers, the Superintendent proceeds as follows:

One of the most essential enactments of the new law after those I have above alluded to, is the obligation imposed upon all teachers, whether male or female, to undergo an examination before their respective boards of examiners, and the prohibition of school commissioners to employ teachers who have not received a diploma.

This clause of the law has been strictly put in force, and the consequence has been that the labours of the different boards of examiners has been considerably increased by the number of candidates presenting themselves for examination, not only at their regular, but also at the special meetings which I recommended them to hold for this purpose.

The Statistical Statement of the Report, (the Superintendent remarks) is deserving of the attention of all persons of education, desirous of becoming acquainted with the intellectual progress of the country.

The Department of Education had not, until lately, any officer whose particular duty it was to collect and compile the information obtained by this office from the various sources from which it is derived.

It will not be considered surprising, then, that this branch has this year assumed an importance which it did not previously possess, and which can but augment considerably with the experience and proficiency daily attained by the clerk of accounts and statistics, Mr. de Lesignan, whose perseverance, assiduity and ability have been of the greatest assistance to me.

In re-examination of the calculations of the last year, some errors were discovered, resulting from figures in the tables of some of the Inspectors having been twice added. The revised summary of all the Educational Institutions, of the pupils, and of all the contributions and assessments, will show as follows, and exhibits considerable progress during the present year:—

	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.	Inc. over 1855.	Inc. over 1854.	Inc. over 1853.
Institutions.....	2352	2795	2869	2919	50	124	567
Pupils.....	108284	119733	127858	142141	15133	22408	33857
Contributions.....	£ 41463	£ 62284	£ 62284	£ 101691	£ 38408	£ 42183	£ 60229

As I have already remarked, real progress should be judged more from the number of children who really derive benefit from what is taught them, than from the number of children attending the schools. The following statement will, however, prove (although we might wish for a more satisfactory one) that in this respect we are not altogether stationary:—

	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.	Increase over 1855.	Increase over 1854.	Increase over 1853.
Pupils reading well.	27367	32861	43407	46940	3533	14079	18573
do writing do	50072	47014	58039	60086	2083	13072	10012
Learn. simple arith.	18281	22897	30631	48359	17728	25462	30078
do compound do	12448	18073	22586	24431	845	5358	10983
do book-keeping.	.....	799	1976	5012	3036	4213	5012
do geography ...	12185	13826	17700	30134	12434	16308	17948
do history.....	6738	11486	15520	17580	2060	6094	10842
do French gram.	15353	17851	23260	38328	16068	21476	23975
do English do	7066	7097	9004	11824	2820	4727	4758
do parsing.....	4412	9283	16439	26310	9871	17027	21898

According to statement, there are 229,216 children between the ages of five and sixteen, in Lower Canada, of whom 121,755 attend the schools located within their respective municipalities. The first of these totals must certainly be below the real number; and I should estimate the difference at about twenty per cent. Upon these calculations, the number of children from five to sixteen years of age, would appear to me to be, in the year 1856, 292,059.

With reference to the 121,755 children attending school, as stated in the census, this number appears to me to be correct, in so far as the same refers to Elementary Schools. The Statement G, (that of the Inspectors), gives 121,568, exclusive of convents, which are all

included in the class of female academies. The number of children between five and sixteen years of age attending Institutions for superior education, is 16,485: giving 138,240 children from five to sixteen years of age attending all the different Educational Institutions out of 292,059, or 47.23 per cent. It would appear then, there are 153,819 children between five and sixteen years of age who receive no instruction whatever, and if we add to this at least one-fourth of those whose names are inscribed as attending school, but who, from want of punctuality in their attendance may be considered as deriving very little if any benefit therefrom, this state of things offers a very melancholy and important subject for deep reflection, calculated however at the same time doubly to increase the zeal of those who take any interest in the education of youth.

Without reference to the preceding remarks, the results of the last census show 93,430 children of from seven to fourteen years of age (the obligatory legal age) attending the schools, out of 145,177, that is to say 64.33 per cent or 1 in 1.80. The number of boys of from five to sixteen years of age would be 62,374, in 117,875: of boys from seven to fourteen years of age 45,716 out of 74,459. The number of from five to sixteen years of age, 59,381 in 111,341 of from seven to fourteen years of age 45,716 out of 70,718.

Table B contains a statement of the amounts levied for elementary Education in Lower Canada. I have already, in the first part of this Report, given the results of this statement within the different districts of Inspection, and called attention the sacrifices made by a great many municipalities. I must state, however, that the great increase of all kinds of assessments shown this year, as compared with preceding years, is not altogether real, and this arises from the fact, (which I have already explained) that the statistics of former years did not include all the different kinds of contributions.

The amount is £101,691, which would give an increase over 1855 of £39,407, and over 1854, of £42,183, which would show a sudden increase from £2,776 to £39,407. The fees paid to the several institutions for superior education amount this year to £64,346, which shows that the inhabitants themselves have contributed directly for the purposes of Education £166,037,—the annual grant for Elementary Schools amounted to £28,994—the amount of supplementary aid to poor municipalities to £1,000; the grant to Institutions for Superior Education £18,777. The costs of the establishment and fitting up of the Normal Schools £5,733. The salaries of the officers of the Department and of the School Inspectors, the Library of the Department, the Parochial Libraries, the superannuated teachers' pension fund—books given as prizes in the different schools, and all other contingent expenses of the Department form together an item of £8,007; showing that the Government has expended, in all, £62,511. To this amount expended for Educational purposes as well by individuals as by the Government, should be added £20,753, representing interest at six per cent. on the value of the real estate possessed by the different Educational Institutions (£345,895) which will give £249,301, for the total amount expended for the purposes of Education in Lower Canada, a large sum for a population of only 1,200,000 souls.

The recapitulation of statement B gives: for voluntary contributions or legal assessment sum granted £28,471; assessment over and above the amount of grant or special assessments £24,474; monthly fees £43,372; assessments for building and repairing School-houses, &c., £6,373.

Statement C shows the number of schools in each county in which the books, generally in use throughout the schools, are studied; but independently of those mentioned in this statement, there are many others which are only used in a very few schools.

Among the books used for reading, the "Devoir du Chrétien," "The duty of a Christian towards God," from the collection published by the Brothers of the Christian Doctrine, is almost universally in use. It is read in 1,442 schools. The Bible or the New Testament are read in 506 schools. The National school books of Ireland are read in 431 schools. The 'Guide de l'Instituteur,' 'Teachers Guide,' a kind of Encyclopedia, written by Mr. Valade, is used in 533 schools: the Latin version of the Psalm of David, is used in 936 schools; and books printed in imitation of manuscript, are used in 948. The French grammars most in use are L'Homonds, and the grammar of the Brethren of the Christian Doctrine; the first is used in 506 schools and the latter in 855. The English grammars, are Murray's and Lennie's: the former is used in 254 schools, and the latter in 182 schools. A small volume, containing an abridgment of Sacred History, of the History of Canada, and of the History of France, is used in 1008 schools. The Geography by the Brothers of the Christian Doctrine is used in 1064, Morse's in 139, and Olney's in 83 schools. The Geography written by the Abbé Holmes, is in general used in all the Colleges and Academies, and is far superior to the others. The Arithmetics by Bouthillier and the Christian Brethren are used; the former in 476 and the latter in 738 schools. Adam's and Walkingham's English Arithmetics are used, the former in 198 and the latter in 173 schools.