

taught, has been satisfactory. St. André is one of the parishes in which the parents best understand the duty of bringing up their children well. So much, at least, would appear to be shown by the special interest which each father of a family exhibits in regard to everything connected with education. The subjects taught are more numerous and more special than those taught in most municipalities. The board of commissioners, presided over by a man skilled in the art of teaching, appears to me to be animated by the best spirit. Its advice, as well as its example, seems to have a very good effect upon the rate-payers. A praise worthy spirit of emulation prevails among the teachers. All wish to distinguish themselves, and have at heart the effectual performance of the important duty of forming the minds of the children intrusted to their care.

The account books and the minutes of the proceedings of the corporation are well kept, but the state of the finances exhibits a tardiness in the collection of the rates which is prejudicial to the satisfactory working of the law, and the interest of the teaching body. The proper measures had been taken previous to my last visit, to bring about another state of affairs. Altogether, however, I am satisfied with the results of the school-year in the parish of St. André.

*Notre Dame du Portage.*—Four schools are in operation in this municipality, of which three are on a good footing. But little progress has been made in the fourth, for want of diligence on the part of the pupils. The average attendance at the schools has been 82, the total number of pupils being 112.

The accounts and minutes are regularly kept, but the collection is tardily carried out. On the whole, however, the law works effectually in Notre Dame du Portage, and the corporation direct their whole attention to the proper performance of the duties imposed upon them by the law.

*St. Antonin.*—This municipality had three schools in operation, attended by 114 pupils, the average attendance being 62. The progress made is satisfactory and the teachers have done all that could be expected from them, taking into consideration the lack of diligence on the part of the greater number of their pupils and the other disadvantages against which they have to strive. The rate-payers, as well as the school commissioners, give evidence of good will. The finances are in a satisfactory condition, and the law works well.

*St. Patrice de la Rivière du Loup.*—This municipality contains six schools, attended by 185 pupils, with an average attendance of 132. In two sections, very good progress has been made; another has produced ordinary results, and no progress at all has been made in the remaining three. The fault lies in the apathy of the parents, who only send their children to school during one half of the year. The books are well kept.

*St. Edouard.*—This municipality had a model school for boys under the management of a pupil of the Laval Normal School, attended by 66 pupils; and the convent of the Ladies of the Good Shepherd, where there were 86 pupils. In both these institutions, the progress made was very remarkable, and the result of the year may be considered good. The course of instruction there imparted includes, French, English, drawing, the elements of literature, and vocal and instrumental music. The two institutions are tolerably well provided with what is needful. The law works well in this municipality.

*St. Georges de Cacouna.*—This municipality contains a convent, conducted by the Sisters of Charity, and attended by 82 pupils; and six elementary schools, together, attended by 215 pupils; forming a total of 297 pupils. The daily attendance is 216. In three schools, good progress has been made; in two others, the result has been passable. There is room for improvement in the sixth. The convent continues to give full and complete satisfaction, and receives in return a degree of patronage which is constantly increasing. More distinguished female teachers have been brought up at this institution than at any other in my district. Arithmetic is here taught with unusual success, and the same is the case with the art of letter-writing. The residence of strangers in this parish during the summer season, is in no small degree prejudicial to the pupils, for at that period, those who do not work on the land, seek employment from the strangers, and the schools are deserted; a few young children are the only attendants. It is difficult to remedy this evil. Apart from the convent, none of the schools of this locality are attended with sufficient assiduity, except during the winter season. The corporation does everything in its power to enforce the law. The accounts of the municipality are well kept.

*St. Arsène.*—The six schools of this parish are attended by 290 pupils, with an average attendance of 192. Three of these schools are in a prosperous condition; two are pretty well kept, and one may be classed as middling. On the whole, the result of the year has been satisfactory. The accounts of the corporation are kept in an unexceptionable manner. The contributions are paid with punctuality. The only com-

plaint I have to make against this municipality is the smallness of the salaries allowed to the female teachers, such as Miss Roy, Miss Virginie Gagné and Miss Marie Dumond, and its opposition to the establishment of a model school. It is true that in the majority of the schools the subjects of study prescribed for model schools are taught, and the rate-payers do not suffer in any way; but the female teachers are obliged to do a larger amount of work. Besides, the division of the schools under control into model schools and superior schools for girls, would reduce the number of pupils in each, and they would derive more benefit from the teaching.

*St. Modeste.*—This municipality has but two schools, attended by 68 pupils, with a daily attendance of 44 only. The school in section No. 1 has given a good result; that in No. 2 is middling. The law works well. It is much to be regretted that difficulties, which have quite recently arisen, should have presented the establishment of a third school in a locality very remote from the schools now open. The finances are in a prosperous condition.

*St. Epiphane.*—This is a new municipality in which the law has been put in operation for the first time. The two schools established in this locality are attended by 136 pupils, with an average attendance of 95. All these pupils, with the exception of two or three, were learning the alphabet when the schools were opened, and at the end of the year 28 read, fluently, 73 read very well, and 45 were learning writing. Some of them were learning grammar and arithmetic. Here, as elsewhere, the older pupils lose time in sowing-time and harvest. On the whole, the result has been satisfactory. It would be necessary to establish more schools, to meet the wants of this municipality, which is of considerable extent and has a fair prospect of future prosperity; but the means of the corporation did not permit them to do anything more this year. One additional school would not suffice, and would give rise to fresh complaints; and yet the municipality is unable to establish a large number. The finances are in a prosperous condition, and the secretary-treasurer discharges his duties with integrity.

*St. Jean Baptiste de l'Île Verte.*—In this municipality there are 11 schools in operation, ten of which are exclusively for Île Verte, and one a joint school for St. George's and Île Verte. These schools are attended by 455 pupils, with a daily average attendance of 269 only. Five of these schools are well kept; one is middling, and the five others are below mediocrity. The superior school for girls continues to give satisfaction to the parties interested.

What is needed in this parish is not so much the good-will and application of the teachers as a proper appreciation of the instruction afforded in school. Many of the parents look upon the school as injurious, useless or at all events a superfluous institution. From this idea originates the want of assiduity on the part of the pupils in attending school, as well as the want of books, paper, &c. And unfortunately, many inhabitants of this parish, who through their position, education and influence, might propagate sounder ideas, isolate themselves, and seem to entertain but a barren sympathy for the education of the children of the people. The corporation is animated with a proper spirit, and struggles with all its strength against the prejudices of the rate-payers. The finances are in a prosperous condition, and the accounts are well kept.

*St. Eloi.*—Of the six schools in this parish, three are good; two are inferior, but strictly speaking passable, and the sixth has produced no good result. The mistress in charge of the last was discharged immediately after my visit. The six schools are attended by 253 pupils. In three of the sections there has been very little assiduity on the part of the pupils. On the whole, I must say that progress is slow in this parish, and that the parents exhibit a painful degree of indifference for everything connected with education. On the other hand, I must admit that the corporation are well disposed, and that they discharge their duties as well as they can. The course of instruction, for the majority of the pupils, is limited to reading, writing, orthography and religious instruction. The secretary-treasurer keeps the books of the corporation in the best of order.

*Trois Pistoles, No. 2.*—The nine schools of municipality No. 2, of Trois Pistoles, of 350 pupils, with a daily attendance of 217 only. Unnecessary to say that there has been but little assiduity displayed by the pupils, and that in consequence but little progress has been made. An exception must nevertheless be made in favor of the schools kept by Miss Philomène Lebel and Miss Damon, which have surpassed my expectations in the results produced. These two teachers have great skill in teaching. The course of instruction is limited almost entirely to reading, writing, orthography, and religious instruction. Some of the children of this parish, however, exhibit a remarkable degree of talent. There is no opposition to the working of the law; the assessments are regularly paid, and the small salary allowed to the school-mistress is paid regularly. All that is needed is a greater assiduity in the attendance of the pupils, and higher salaries