

I regret that we have no printed document which gives a full account of our mode of administering the law relating to truancy, and I will therefore write a sketch, necessarily very brief, of this part of our system.

We have four truant officers, who devote their whole time to the execution of this provision of our educational statutes. These officers receive a salary of \$1000 each, per annum. They are appointed by the Mayor and Aldermen. The territory of the city is divided into four truant districts, each being assigned to an officer. When a teacher has a case of truancy, notice is given to the officer of the district, who proceeds to investigate the case. If it is one where admonition and advice seem to be sufficient, the delinquent is excused, otherwise, a complaint is made to the justice appointed for the trial of such cases, a warrant is issued, and the truant is brought up for trial. If the justice thinks it a good case, the delinquent is sentenced to the House of Reformation. The number of convictions has varied from fifty, or thereabouts, to seventy-five a year.

The effect of the law is very salutary. Its operation has remedied the evil of truancy to a very great extent. This part of our system is now deemed indispensable. It is one of the causes of the high per cent. of attendance in proportion to the school popu-

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