

estimates the population in 1858, to be 232,777, and the number of children capable of attending school, at 63,923. The number who attended school during the year, 24,138; the number of schools 762; and the amount expended by the province in support of these schools £22,123; amount expended by the people, £72,161—total £34,284;—this sum includes £1,263 paid to the Chief Superintendent, Inspections, &c. Of the 24,138 school-going pupils, 13,075 were males; and 11,063 females. The number of teachers licensed during the year, were, males 65; females 130—total 193. Number of male teachers engaged during the year, 455; females 340. Value of books in the hands of agents in different parts of the province about £1,000; superior schools established during the year, seven, attended by 450 students,—receiving £213 of provincial money, and £277, from the proprietors—total, £492. As to the subjects taught, and the religious persuasion of teachers, the report is silent. The training and model schools, are doing much good in the preparation of teachers—securing uniformity, and a better faculty of imparting knowledge. The number of students in attendance during the year, is set down at *seventy*.

*Remarks*:—It will be observed, in comparing this report with those of former years, that there is a great falling off in school attendance throughout the Province. On another page will be found, a "Tabular Educational Report of the schools of New Brunswick" for a number of years,—on a comparison of the figures, for the different years, set forth in the table, to which the reader is invited to turn; the state of education, as far as tabular representations are concerned, will be seen at once, and the different stages of improvement can be easily observed,—the number of schools in operation, pupils in attendance, and sums expended in support of education, along with the other details set forth, are topics worthy of consideration.

In 1857, there were 30,000 children at school, while in 1858, there were only 24,138—showing a deficiency of 5,862,—consequently, less than *one ninth* of the population of New Brunswick attend school, while in some of the New England states and Canada West, *one fourth*, and in one state, *one third* of the population are school-going pupils; even our Colonial neighbour across the

Straits, Prince E. Island, sends *one sixth* of her population to school. This state of things is certainly not flattering. It will also be seen by reference to the tabular statement that the cost of sustaining the educational institutions for the past year is greater, by £1,192, than that expended in 1857; and the cost of official management alone £1,075 more than it was in 1857, this is very discouraging. The Colleges, Academies, and high schools, principally of a Secularian order, in 1858, cost £6,958; this large sum is annually paid without the public being made acquainted with any statistics of the state of these institutions. We hope in future to see details—number of students, subjects taught, religious persuasions of students &c., annexed to the superintendent's report, in order that the public may be able to estimate the progress made. It must be obvious to every one at all acquainted with the state of education in other countries—countries which we are striving to imitate, that the good effected by our educational system, is not at all commensurate with the amount of money annually expended in aid of education.

The superintendent says "the change made in the system of inspection was a necessary one and will prove of immense benefit" to the Province; this assertion is yet to be proved; we very much doubt whether the whole system can be made worth half its cost to the country. The amount now paid for inspection, is sufficient to allow if divided, four pounds to each of the 321 Trustees in the province, or twelve pounds to each of the hundred and seven parishes; it is evident under the present system, that trustees will not take a proper interest in the schools unless they are paid. The inspectors complain of the trustees not doing their duty; Mr. McLaughlin, the Inspector for the St. John River Counties, says, "I have been very seldom accompanied by trustees during my visits. This was owing in some measure to the busy season of the year, but more to a dissatisfaction entertained, because of extra duties imposed upon them, without any recompense for their loss of time. This was the chief objection I heard urged throughout the District."

The Trustees cannot be blamed, and it is no wonder that the public are dissatisfied when they find that exorbitant sums are paid to other persons