

structures. Improvements in the internal arrangement and furniture, must also be provided. In the accomplishment of this the New School Act has rendered good service. Disagreeable as it may be to make the admission, it is nevertheless true, that Boards of Trustees are not over anxious to make school-houses comfortable, and many are the instances in which nothing but the legal pressure brought to bear, would ever provide the requisite accommodation. As a proof of this we note the fact, that last year the expenditure upon school-sites and school-houses amounted to \$699,547; the previous year it was \$609,113; and in 1872, \$556,013, or an expenditure of \$1,854,703 in three years. With such liberality we may predict much more comfort, better health, and greater industry in the prosecution of study than prevailed in former years.

Salaries.—Next to our progress in the erection of school-houses, we might place the increased remuneration paid to teachers. It is a fact very much to be regretted that so many of the best teachers abandon the profession for some other vocation of a more lucrative character. Nor are they to be blamed for this. A man, with no capital but the capacity to work and intellect to work intelligently, has a right to sell in the highest market. If that market is found in connection with our public schools, then of course he enters it and remains there. If not, he must seek for his price either in some other profession or in commercial pursuits. Although the rewards, in a pecuniary point of view, held out to the profession are better than they were some years ago, they are certainly meagre enough yet. It cannot, however, be expected, until the profession becomes more permanent, that any great improvement can take place. It is only those who, by experience, have established their claim to a fair reward, that can complain of low salaries. In every

department of labor there are gradations. The apprentice must not complain if he is not as well paid as the journeyman. So the young teacher, who has given no other proof of his capacity than his ability to procure, perhaps, a third class certificate, must not complain if he is not paid as liberally as the man who has given years to the work, and who has qualified himself by hard study to teach the more advanced branches.

The advance in salaries which has taken place in the last few years, may be seen from the following statistics: In 1873 the highest salary paid to a male teacher in a county was \$660; in 1874, \$720; in a city the highest salary paid in 1873 was \$850; in 1874, \$1,000. The average for the last three years, in counties, was as follows:—

	1872	1873	1874
Male teacher...	\$288	\$323	\$348
Female teachers..	216	229	235

The whole amount expended on teachers' salaries in 1874 was \$1,647,750, being an increase of \$127,626 over the preceding year.

The school population is also fast increasing, although the average attendance is yet far below what it should be. The total school population of the Province, as reported by trustees, amounts to 511,603. Those in actual attendance numbered 464,047, leaving a balance of 47,556 who do not attend any school at all. The number returned as not attending any school was 19,321, but this is evidently incorrect, as the true number must be the difference between the *whole* school population and the number reported in *actual* attendance. In 1844 the school population of the Province was only 96,756. The increase during the last thirty years, then, is over 500 per cent. By recent statistics of the schools in England, we noticed the increase during the last *forty* years was only 400 per cent.

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