

it is *facile princeps* of the maps of this Province. Besides the usual features of good charts, it presents an admirable view of our railway system, populations, distances, High School towns, and many other things of interest to the intelligent reader. It is a capital bit of work.

REPORT OF THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION FOR THE YEAR 1883, WITH THE STATISTICS OF 1882. Printed by order of the Legislative Assembly, by C. Blackett Robinson, Toronto.

(Second Notice.)

WHEN we undertook the task of reviewing the last report of Mr. Crooks as Minister of Education, we had occasion to regret his serious illness. We have now to lament his loss as head of the Education Department by an affliction, surely, the saddest that can befall the life of man—insanity. The greatest bereavement of life is that which deprives us of the power of knowing that it is a bereavement. Well might Edgar, in "King Lear," under his assumed garb of madness, exclaim, when he saw the condition of his father with his eyes torn out: "The worst is not, so long as we can say, this is the worst." Whatever may have been Mr. Crooks' faults in his administration of the Department, the EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY, in pointing them out, never lost sight of his earnestness and honesty of purpose. And who can now say to what extent these faults are attributable to the shadow that for a long time was gradually obscuring the brightness of his powers?

While we are not of those who cry, The King is dead! Long live the King! we are, nevertheless, prepared to welcome Mr. Ross as successor to Mr. Crooks. He has a great deal to recommend him to the position, and to the teaching profession. He was a practical teacher, and as such passed through all grades of the profession until he reached the position of Model School Inspector. His valuable services in this capacity we had occasion to commend in our review of last year's Report. He has with one or two exceptions acted wisely in his professional career. He has the merit, not a small one in our eyes, of

being the first teacher who, in conjunction with Mr. McCall, had public spirit enough to establish an educational journal. This was the *Ontario Teacher*, which, in its independence of tone, and its devotion to the interests of education and the profession was the worthy predecessor of the EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY.

Mr. Ross's experience as a legislator in the House of Commons should enable him to survey with no narrow view the important field of labour he has entered upon. It remains for him to show whether he proposes to occupy it as a mere time-serving politician, or as a statesman with broad and patriotic views. He takes hold of the helm at a time when the cry is in many quarters "about ship," and it will be for him to show that it is safest to keep the vessel in her present course. So long as he steers clear of the shoals which Mr. Mundella, his compeer in England, calls educational politics, and keeps his eyes steadily fixed on the improvement of our educational system, and of the teachers engaged in it, so long as he summons to his aid the men best fitted to manage the educational ship quite irrespective of their political creed he may depend upon the hearty support and co-operation of the EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY.

It would be premature to look for any material results of his administration in the statistics which we are about to give, seeing that Mr. Ross took charge of the Department but a few months ago.

STATISTICS OF THE PUBLIC AND SEPARATE SCHOOLS FOR THE YEAR 1882.

The total receipts were \$3,469,990, showing an increase of \$210,751. The increase for the previous year was only \$4,409. This is very satisfactory, and we trust Mr. Ross regards it with feelings akin to those with which Mr. Mundella congratulated the House of Commons in England lately upon the fact that the educational estimates now had reached the respectable sum of £3,000,000. Of the total amount, eight per cent. was contributed by the Legislative Grant, twenty-seven and one-half per cent. was from Muni-