

48 per cent. of those registered, and that there are 90,959 pupils between the ages of seven and thirteen years, who have not attended school the minimum number of days required by law, besides those who have not entered the schools. As stated by the Minister of Education in his last report, "one great problem requiring our attention is how to increase the average attendance." The greater regularity of attendance shown by the statistics of other countries should stimulate us to investigate, and if possible to remove, the causes that operate against a more regular attendance at the Schools of Ontario. In the words of the Address, "The law of compulsory education is not a dead letter there (Australia, etc.) as it is allowed to be with us." Undoubtedly there is an aversion on the part of trustees to compel their neighbors' children to attend school, but the clauses of the law relating to compulsory education are inoperative chiefly for the reasons that at least so far as they relate to rural schools, they are not practicable owing to the incompleteness of the census returns and the inadequacy of the machinery provided to convict and punish offenders.

It is some gratification, however, to know that the percentage of average attendance is steadily, if but slowly, increasing, and farther, that the actual condition of affairs is better than would appear from the official report, because the average is reckoned upon the total number registered between the ages of five and twenty-one, whereas many thousands of those who attend but a few days in the year are under seven years of age and over fifteen, and who in many instances are better out of than in the public schools: therefore we beg to recommend to the Honorable the Minister of Education that the public reports should be made to state the average attendance of those who are properly of public school age, namely, of pupils from seven to fifteen years, inclusive, as showing more correctly the extent to which our people are availing themselves of the means provided by the nation for public school education.

JOHN DEARNESS,

Chairman.

Moved by Mr. W. Mackintosh, seconded by Mr. J. Brebner, That the Report on the President's Address be adopted, and that the Secretary be instructed to lay it before the Minister of Education, bringing under his special attention the recommendation referring to the reporting of the average attendance of pupils from seven to fifteen years of age, inclusive—*Carried.*

Moved by Mr. A. MacMurchy, seconded by Mr. R. W. Doan, That a list of the members of this Association from its commencement (as far as possible) be prepared and printed along with the minutes.—*Carried.*