

There were registered in the Winter term 2263, as compared with the previous one, 2132, making a difference of 131 pupils in favor of last Winter term; and in the summer, 2482, with that of 1876, in which there were enrolled 2429, giving a preponderance on the side of the past year, over the previous one of 184.

According to the Returns, there were at School for some portion of the year, 2649 pupils; the previous year, 2803, the accuracy of which seems doubtful. The number given for the school year just closed, appears to be much nearer the reality.

The number daily present on average, the summer term, was 116,960, making an average daily present, per school, 1694; and the full time, 1076,31. It will be thus seen, that the number registered falls considerably short of one-half of what it would be, had all attended the full time at school; for had 2482, attended the full time, that number would be the daily average of attendance; but it fell short of that by 140,569; but, of course, this does not give the real number of absentees daily because many of the pupils did not belong to the school the full term. The number daily belonging to school of absentees would be 131,240.

If any proper means can be devised to secure a better attendance of the pupils at School, it is clear that such is very much needed.

There is no doubt that if rate-payers who have children of school age, were led to see the propriety of using every endeavour to have them regularly at School, it would be much more pleasant for all concerned, and more in accordance with the real spirit of liberty, than that they should be coerced to the matter of doing so; but if, after all reasonable effort on the part of those who are entrusted with the interest of education in the Province should fail to accomplish this object, what then? Should not the strong arm of the law in that case, interfere and *compel* the parent or the guardian to do that which without the law, he failed to do for those whose intellectual, and moral training, are committed to him? A judiciously devised compulsory law of Education, may, therefore, become a necessity; but, by all means let every well matured expedient be *first* tried. Let every obstruction so far as possible be removed. One serious cause of irregular attendance at present is, that, frequently referred to,—that Trustees of School Sections in many instances, without carefully considering whether, or not, the Teacher's capabilities are such as to secure the confidence, and ensure the educational advancement of the pupils in the Section, agree with him for his services, because said Teacher, is willing to engage with them at a low rate of salary. The consequence not unfrequently is, that the teacher proves so far as attendance of pupils, and their interest in study are concerned, an utter failure. Of course it does not follow, that all who may ask high salaries, are to be accepted as first rate teachers; but the inference is clear, that Trustees should be careful not to employ those, whose qualifications are not, at least in some measure, adequate to the requirements of the Section.

Another hindrance in this County and adjoining School Districts is, that the time of holding the Summer vacation, is unsuited to the circumstances of the people, the arrangement of which, under certain limitations, might safely we think be left to the discretion of the Board of School Commissioners, and Inspector of each District.

It appears to me also, that it would tend no little to promote a better attendance at School, if some effective means were used to require those appointed to the position of Trustees, to thoroughly acquaint themselves with the duties and responsibilities of their office, and employ every means in their power to secure the above named object.

The grand total day's attendance for the winter term was 127,005, and for