

ninety-six thousand seven hundred and fifty-six (96,756),—only five per cent. above one-half of the aggregate number of resident children.

The average length of time during which the Schools have been taught is about eight months.

The requirement of the law, in reference to the visitation of the Schools has been fulfilled by the County and Township Local Superintendents, respectively, who report rather favourably, upon the whole, with respect to the manner in which the Schools are conducted. Nothing is said, however, as to the course and extent of study pursued in the Schools.

QUALIFICATION AND KIND OF SCHOOL TEACHERS EMPLOYED.

In order to test acquirements of Teachers, as well as to comply with the provisions of the Act, numerous examinations have taken place, and, as the result, two thousand three hundred and forty nine (2,349) Certificates of Qualification have been granted. Nearly all who are engaged in School Teaching in Canada West have received authority to do so from either County or other School Superintendents. Still, however, no doubt exists but that a large portion of these Teachers are altogether unfit to discharge efficiently the duties of their important office. But what sort of qualifications can be expected to be found in an individual who can afford to render a year's service for the paltry sum of fifty pounds,—the average allowance of School Teachers in Canada West.

DETAILED FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE SCHOOLS.

The financial part of the Annual Reports is not as satisfactory as could be desired. The last was a peculiar year in reference to the receipts and expenditure of School moneys. A large amount belonging to 1842 and 1843 was not available to the public during those years, in consequence of which an Act was passed, authorizing Your Excellency-in-Council to apportion and distribute the same in 1844. During that year, the sum of £41,695 2s. 6d. was paid to the different County Superintendents of Common Schools; £20,000 the grant for 1843; and the remaining £20,000 the ordinary grant of 1844. Nearly the whole of this unusually large amount came into the hands of the Township, Town and City Superintendents. Some few of them, in addition, received balances from the District Treasurer, and the late School Commissioners. . . .

THE LOCAL SCHOOL RATES AS AN EQUIVALENT TO THE APPORTIONMENT.

The provision of the Act of 1843 relative to the imposition of taxes in support of Common Schools is an important one, as upon the due execution of it depends, in a great measure, the successful working of the present System. It was of considerable moment, therefore, to ascertain whether this requirement of the Statute had been carried into effect, in the operation of the last year, and no distinct evidence being furnished of the fact in the annexed Reports, from the circumstances already stated, circulars were addressed from this office to all the County Superintendents, instituting minute enquiry into the matter. From the replies of those officers, it was found that, while the proper assessment had, in every case, with one exception, been made, the amount so levied had not in general been collected and paid into the hands of the local Superintendents at the time of making up the Annual Returns, owing in many instances to the neglect of the Township Collectors. . . .

In the accompanying Tables the amount paid to School Teachers, from the "School Fund," is represented to be £30,268 3s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; raised for the same purpose by Rate Bill, £22,334 19s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; total paid Teachers during the year £51,714 12s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; leaving balance in the hands of Township, Town, and City Superintendents of £6,476 9s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.