

enced youth, move in larger proportion than any other part of our people, and to the new and fertile Canadian West? Another reason why the Minister should give a little more detail about our school population. We shall not venture into this field of inquiry, and are the more content not to do so; because the churches are addressing themselves to this important question. The decrease in the registered attendance, in the public schools, is becoming serious; the difference in the attendance between the years 1899 and 1900 is placed at the startling figure of 9,130, almost double what it was the previous year. This is a result not likely to encourage the supporters of gratuitous education,

The amount expended upon public schools for salaries last year (1900) was \$2,809,246, being an increase of \$32,605 upon the same expended in 1899. The total increase for all purposes was \$208,484.

The number of teachers in these schools was 8,666, increase, 97; men, 2,539, decrease, 73; women, 6,127, increase, 170. The decrease in the number of men teaching in our public schools continues year by year, and the increase in the number of women teaching in the schools more than counterbalances the loss in numbers. The school authorities in Massachusetts affirm that they have proved by experience that if the number of men teaching in the schools be less than twenty-five per cent. the children suffer on account of the inferior management of the schools. We, in Ontario, are now very near the danger limit. It is gratifying to notice that there is a slight increase in the salaries of the teachers.

The Minister of Education has

the following to say about our secondary education:—

“When High Schools were first established in the Province, their primary object was to prepare pupils for the learned professions, and especially for the University. Although their original purpose has not been ignored, the course of study has been enlarged so as to meet the aims of pupils who intend to follow the ordinary pursuits of life. It is in the High Schools that most pupils who desire to become Public School teachers receive their non-professional training. This is a valuable function of those institutions and one that has done much to commend them to the general public. Many young men also who intend to follow mechanical pursuits, or prepare themselves for mercantile life or for agriculture, take advantage of the High Schools. The superior culture which is thus received proves a valuable investment. In 1872 the number of High School pupils entering mercantile life was 486. In 1900 the number had increased to 1,331. In 1872 300 pupils left the High Schools for agricultural pursuits, and the number in 1900 had reached 757.

Owing to the organization of Continuation Classes in Public Schools, there has not been much increase of late years in the establishment of additional High Schools. As Continuation Classes are really doing High School work, it may be seen that there is a steady progress in the support given to secondary education. In 1867 only 1,283 pupils, or 23 per cent. of the whole number, studied commercial subjects, such as bookkeeping. In 1900 this subject was taken up by 9,712 pupils, or 45 per cent. of the total attendance. In 1867 5,171 pupils, or 90 per cent. studied Lat-