

THE
EDUCATIONAL RECORD
OF THE
PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

No. 1.

JANUARY, 1897.

VOL. XVII.

Articles : Original and Selected.

THE SCHOLASTIC YEAR, 1895-96.

Statistics are always dry and sometimes misleading. However, they give some indication of the true state of affairs which cannot be obtained without them.

Probably during the past year more has been said and written about education in this province than ever before in the same length of time.

Much has been well said, and much needed to be said ; but truly the pessimist has had a great time. One has hardly dared to say him nay, even when at his worst. Let us turn to the figures in the last report of the Superintendent of Education and see if we can comfort our souls even a little. After which, whether successful or not, we may point a moral. Critics are very useful, and although somewhat exacting, are as honest as the generality of mankind. Some of them have reasoned very closely in regard to education in this province, but starting with false premises they have reached results that are usual in such cases. Perhaps most injustice has been done by concluding from particular cases that everything is bad.

As the RECORD reaches, practically speaking, only English people, let us take a glance at the statistics that concern English schools alone. There are 1371 Protestant teachers in this province, of whom 1241 are female and 130 male. Of these 85 or 6.2 p.c. have no diplomas. Again, as to place, of these 85, 30 are in Montreal ; and as to grade of schools,