

held First Class Provincial Certificates, 2,167 held Second Class, and 3,426 held Third Class. The remainder held First and Second Class County Board Certificates. The large number of 528 Third Class Certificates were extended by the Minister during 1884.

The County that was the greatest sinner in securing certificates of this character was Norfolk, in which 47 were extended. Surely, with the power given to Inspectors by the Regulations of the Department to add a maximum of 200 marks for efficiency in teaching to the marks of those Third Class teachers who seek to get a renewal of their certificates by examination, these extended certificates should drop out of existence. There were 273 Temporary Certificates authorized by the Minister during the year 1884. Renfrew took the lead in these, having 46.

To obtain the cost per pupil, based on average attendance, we have no longer to depend upon our own reckonings; it is one of the new features in the Report before us. For years we have urged that a statement of this kind should be given to show in its proper form the rate of expenditure. It is as follows:—For cities, \$14.45; for towns, \$12.44; for rural districts, with their smaller average attendance, \$14.80; for the whole Province, \$14.42. While the average attendance for the whole Province was as we have stated, 46 per cent, it was 43 for rural districts, 55 for towns, and 59 for cities. Of the counties Waterloo stands highest with 51 per cent, and Haliburton, as usual, the lowest with 32 per cent. Smith's Falls takes the lead among the towns with an average of 66 per cent, and Almonte brings up the rear with 43 per cent. Among the cities Toronto is ahead with 65 per cent, and St. Catharines, London, Kingston, and Guelph, are last with only 53 per cent. For the

first time we are informed of the method the Education Department uses in finding this average. It is certainly a way peculiar to itself. Ordinary mortals would find the average by dividing the total number of *actual* teaching days into the total attendance; not so with the Department, it divides the *legal* number of teaching days into the total attendance. Now as very few schools are open for the legal number of teaching days in the year, the average the Report gives is too small. We trust that in the next Report we will have the correct percentage of average attendance given, so that we may see how we compare in this respect with other countries.

GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

THE nations of Europe are at present actively engaged in seeking to annex new territory. France claims in her last official report that she has extended her possessions in Senegambia, taking in the whole coast from Cape Blanco to the ninth degree of north latitude, and some right has been established to a strip of coast on the Equator north of the Congo which has been explored by one of her lieutenants.

Germany, through her Commissioner, has concluded a treaty with the native chiefs and placed some part of the country on the Gulf of Benin under her protection, as well as a strip of coast about the river Cameroons, and another coast line extending from the northern boundary of Cape Colony to Cape Frio. In the South Pacific, Germany has recently proclaimed a protectorate over the northern coast of the island of New Guinea and smaller islands in the neighbourhood.

Meanwhile, the immense region of the basin of the Congo is being ac-