

These figures give more than the number of pupils who have left the three normal schools, several having obtained a diploma for each grade in succession. The total number of pupils who have graduated is as follows:

Jacques Cartier Normal School.....	97
Laval Normal School.....	193
McGill Normal School.....	195
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Nearly all the pupils who obtained diplomas gave themselves up to teaching; and the great majority of those who taught during three years, as required by the terms of admission, have continued to teach after the expiration of that time. Were the salaries of teachers more ample, there is no doubt that all the pupils from the normal schools would definitely adopt the vocation of teacher. Unfortunately, however, there is, as I have already had occasion to observe, very little progress in this direction. This year's statistics show only a very feeble increase in the salaries of male teachers, and a decrease has actually taken place in those of females.

The new programmes adopted by the Council of Public Instruction have not deterred candidates from presenting themselves for examination in large numbers; and the examiners found that marked progress in the aptitude and acquirements of those who came forward was the result of the enforcing of the new rules.

Under the sanction of these rules, Mr. Delagrave, member of the Council of Public Instruction, visited the Boards of Examiners of the Counties of Gaspé and Bonaventure; while those of Kamouraska and Rimouski were visited by myself. Detailed reports of this inspection were submitted to the Council of Public Instruction, and the substance communicated to the respective Boards. Other Boards shall be visited during the course of the present year.

The substance of the notes of examination taken by these divers Boards would indicate that, as yet, sacred history, geography and the history of Canada had caused the most difficulties. Several candidates had of themselves undergone examination in branches which were not indispensable to obtain the elementary school diploma, and the result had proved as satisfactory as it was honorable to them. If some dictations have appeared weak, they still exhibited as a whole a marked improvement in the spelling and writing. I may even say that the examination I have made of these dictations, which are preserved by each Board, has given me the idea of a state of things far more satisfactory than is generally represented; and my visits to numerous schools on the way confirmed this impression. Among the dictations preserved by the Board of Kamouraska, I found half a score of excellent copies, written in a very fine hand; of these four were without the slightest fault. They were those of Miss Angèle Delisle, Miss Artémise Bart, Miss Olive Dumont, and Miss Virginie Label, who were all classed No. 1 for every subject of examination.

I reproduce a recapitulation of the notes of examination of the Boards of Kamouraska and Rimouski, which prove the relative advancement in each of the branches required. No. 1 is equivalent to very good, No. 2, good, and No. 3, inadequate. The number of notes of each degree entered for each subject is shown in the following table.

## BOARD OF KAMOURASKA.

Branches.	No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3.
Reading, French .....	28	2	0
Reading, English.....	2	0	0
Dictation, French.....	18	12	4
Dictation, English.....	2	0	0
Analytical French Reading .....	20	5	1
Analytical English Reading.....	2	0	0
Writing .....	21	9	3
Grammar, French .....	23	6	0
Grammar, English.....	2	0	0
Geography.....	20	7	0
Book-Keeping.....	1	0	0
Sacred History .....	17	9	4
History of Canada .....	13	11	5
Arithmetic.....	12	16	1
Art of teaching.....	2	0	0

## BOARD OF RIMOUSKI.

Branches.	No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3.
Reading, French.....	12	0	0
Reading, English.....	2	0	0
Dictation, French.....	2	10	1
Analytical French Reading .....	12	0	0
Writing .....	5	9	0
Grammar, French .....	7	5	0
Grammar, English.....	1	0	1
Geography.....	7	5	2
Sacred History .....	10	2	1
History of Canada .....	4	8	1
Arithmetic.....	11	2	1
Art of teaching .....	3	10	0

The following table is a recapitulation of the statistics transmitted annually by the Boards of Examiners. It shows the number of days over which the examinations extended, the number of candidates examined, the average number of teachers examined per day, the number of diplomas granted, &c.; and to a certain extent it will also indicate the severity shown by each Board. [For this Table see page 88.]

Since the publication of my last Report the examination on the Art of Teaching, which had previously been optional, has become obligatory for the three grades of diplomas; and an examination on Agriculture has also become requisite to obtain the academy and model or superior primary school diplomas. It was provided by the Rules that those parts of the programmes having reference to the above subjects should take effect only after the publication of text-books intended to facilitate their acquirement. Text-books having been published by the Rev. Mr. Langevin and approved by the Council of Public Instruction, this condition became fulfilled.

The absolute necessity of obtaining the diploma on the one hand, and, on the other, the difficulty in so doing, should afford protection to teachers against the unlimited competition which the least capable among them enter into with the rest, and cause the average of salaries to show an increase.

The number of lay teachers, male and female, without diplomas who were employed during the year in schools under control of the school commissioners and trustees was only 41; and, in each case, payment of the grant was withheld. The balance in excess of this number, indicated by the synoptical table, is made up either of assistants, ecclesiastics, or members of teaching communities exempted by law.

The establishment of the Savings Fund, normal schools, teachers' associations and Journals of Education, were all of a nature to improve the position and increase the efficiency of the teachers; and it is much to be desired that school libraries were added, at least to the model schools. In France, the government, believing that much of what was taught in the schools became useless through want of books, has recently appropriated considerable sums to this object. The number of parish libraries in Lower Canada is, at present, only 284, and the number of volumes 196,704. It is, nevertheless, an increase of 25 libraries and 3944 volumes over the previous year.

I am happy to say that last year, as during the year previous, the expenses of the *Journal de l'Instruction Publique* and of the Lower Canada Journal of Education did not exceed the receipts; there was, in fact, a small profit which will be applied to the reduction of the deficit on former years. This deficit, amounting to \$1918.98 on the 31st December 1861, had been reduced to \$1491.04 on the 31st December last. If it be borne in mind that this sum does not equal in amount the grant for any one year, and that distributed over seven years, the time during which these periodicals have been in existence, it gives an annual deficit of only \$213, or 7.05 per cent. per annum in excess of the government grant (which is of \$1600,) it will be admitted that this circumstance, though much to be regretted, is by no means surprising, especially if we take into account the fact that the Department of Education in Upper Canada is allowed as much for the publication of one journal.

New school municipalities continue to be formed as our system of education develops itself.

The following is a table of new municipalities, formed since 1857, either by the erection of new settlements into school municipalities, or by the division of old municipalities. It should be observed that only a very few of the new municipalities are able to make a school report during the first year of their establishment, as time is required to organize, levy assessments, &c. In all that concerns the opening of schools and the levying of taxes and monthly rates, new school municipalities generally show as much zeal as the old, and sometimes more in proportion to their means.