

**School
Attendance.**

A year ago, in response to an interest in school attendance which is now world-wide, Saskatchewan amended her School Attendance law. The new law was a somewhat unique experiment, but a year's trial has gone far towards proving it a very successful experiment. In a test made in 1916 before the new law came into force, the actual attendance in 1450 rural schools was 68 per cent. of the possible attendance and in a similar test made in the same schools on the same date in 1917, after the new law had become effective, the actual attendance had increased to 76 per cent. of the possible!

The weakness in the old law—and in school attendance laws in all democracies—lay in the local control of the agencies for enforcement. The new law established a central control in a school attendance officer in the Department of Education. All teachers throughout the Province must transmit to this officer detailed records of the irregular attendances or non-attendances at their schools. The officer must immediately call the attention of the parent of each pupil whose attendance has been unsatisfactory to the provisions of the School Attendance law. He will do this in a courteous and sympathetic letter. If the letter is of no avail the officer must forward a second letter with a warning of peremptory action under the law if the pupil concerned does not report at school within five days. If the second letter is of no avail, the provincial police, who become truancy officers under the law, are required to take action to enforce the penalties provided for truancy. During the first year of the enforcement of the Act it was found that 14,043 children out of 60,723 in rural and village schools were irregular in attendance or always absent. The first letter from the central attendance officer reduced the number of parents or guardians to whom it was necessary to send the second or peremptory letter to 5,510. Only 935 pupils failed to report themselves as in attendance in response to this second letter. With regard to these the Provincial police had taken or would take legal action.

The official report upon the first year under the new law contains two or three interesting comments. The children of foreign and non-English parents were responsible for most of the non-attendance. They have begun to respond freely to the demands of the new law. Illness has caused 22 per cent of the non-attendance. The reports from the schools and the correspondence with the parents are providing the Department of Education with a fairly accurate census of the children in the Province who are neglected or seriously defective in mind or body.

**Teachers'
Salaries.**

Last month reference was made in these pages to the effect of increased salaries on the status and the efficiency of the teaching profession. But there is another, and a very important, viewpoint. What effect would a general