DECREASE IN ATTENDANCE.

Seven Thousand Children Less in Our Schools.

Annual Report of the Minister of Education—Suggestions for Raising the Status of the Teacher.

The annual report of the minister of education for the year 1900 was presented to the legislature Thursday. The statistics refer to 1899, and may be summarized as follows:

Number of public schools, 5,654, an increase of 67; Roman Catholic separate schools, 352, an increase of 7; Protestant separate schools, 8; kindergartens, 119; night schools, 16; total expenditure on public schools, $4,620,048; registered pupils, 429,227, a decrease of 7,500; average attendance, 243,325, a decrease of 4,455; pupils in R. C. separate schools, 41,796, an increase of 129; pupils in Protestant separate schools, 411, a decrease of 64; pupils in kindergartens, 11,262, an increase of 179; pupils in night schools, 1,026, a decrease of 478; percentage of average to total attendance in public schools, 57 teachers, men 2,612, women 5,957, total 8,569; average salary, male teachers $394, female teachers $294.

High schools and collegiate institutes, 139; teachers therein, 568; pupils, 22,460, a decrease of 841; total expenditures on high schools, $722,239.

The total school registration for the year was 471,023, and the average attendance 269,092, compared with 473,194 and 273,451 resepectively in 1898. While the toal receipts have grown, the expenditure has also increased, and the cost per pupil in the public schools was $9 28 in 1899, compared with $9 19 in 1898 and $3 67 in 1867.

STATUS OF THE TEACHER.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt, in a few pages of general remarks, refers to the tendency of the rural population to move to the cities, where there is industrial employment, in consequence of which there was a decreased attendance at the rural schools. Mr. Harcourt goes on to speak of the importance of manual training, and concludes with the following observations regarding the status of the teacher: "The main difficulty regarding the question as it pertains to public schools is the short time which the average teacher remains in the profession. Young men of ability can scarcely be expected to continue teaching unless higher salaries are paid. In Ontario, as in most places on this continent, the majority of teachers of elementary schools are women. For obvious reasons, the teaching profession, so far as concerns public schools, is, therefore, lacking in permanency. The abolition of the primary examination was doubtless a step in the right direction. With the higher qualifications required, the large surplus of teachers noticed a few years ago has disappeared; indeed, in a few parts of the province a scarcity of public school teachers has arisen. The excellence of the training which is given to public school teachers is well recognized. The advantages of lengthening the term of the Normal Schools, as well as that of the County Model Schools, have been long apparent. Several related questions have, however, to be carefully considered before changes of this kind are made. It would be desirable if the holders of third-class certificates could be limited to certain schools, and the better positions open only to those who held higher grades of certificates. If a change were made regarding the distribution of the legislative and municipal grants, so as to give greater inducements to trustees for engaging second or first class teachers, something might be accomplished.

"Some modifications of the present course of study for high and public schools, as well as for teachers' certificates, will doubtless be necessary before long. It is hoped that after 1902 a course of study may be prescribed which will be warranted by the experience gained during the last few years."

News Notes From Ottawa.

Ottawa, March 15.—The new Dominion syndicate has taken over the interests in the charter of the Montreal Ottawa and Georgian Bay Canal Company. The new Dominion syndicate, it is said, is now in the hands of a powerful financial group, who have been connected with the construction of the North Sea ship canal, the Manchester Canal and many other large works of a similar nature. They propose to bring their great experience on such large undertakings to bear upon the Ottawa navigation in the immediate future.

Tenders have been received by the Ottawa board of health for an 80-room contagious diseases hospital to cost about $40,000. It was also decided to ask the city to obtain power from the legislature to establish a scavenging system.

The C. P. R. Company has made a move in the crossing dispute. The company will apply at the weekly high court tomorrow for an interim injunction restraining the city from interfering at the crossing. Should the injunction be granted the city guards will have to be taken away from the crossing. The city will oppose the application in the high court.

It has been decided to organize a "Lady Minto Cottage Hospital Fund" in connection with the Victorian Order of Nurses for the purpose of raising money for cottage hospitals, which will be known as "Victorian Cottage Hospitals." His excellency said the Victorian Order was a fitting memorial to the late Queen. A commission, with Lord Minto as chairman, was appointed to manage the cottage hospital fund. An anonymous gift of $2,000 for the fund has been received through Lord Minto. All the officers were re-elected.

Sergt. Constance, of Kamloops, B. C., a member of the Strathconas, was robbed of $175 while asleep in a hotel here. He occupied a room with 4 other men, and when he arose this morning two of the guests had departed, and had not paid their hotel bill.

Multum in Parvo.

The senate committee on the Cook charges will meet on Tuesday.

Four thousand participated in St. Patrick's day parade at Ottawa.

East Elgin Conservatives met in annual session at Aylmer on Friday.

The South African Constabulary leave Ottawa for Halifax on Wednesday next, 20th inst.

Col. Steele says the report that he is to raise 1,000 men for South African police is entirely untrue.

Lieut.-Gov. McMillan of Manitoba has given assent to the Northern Pacific Railway bill.

Mariano Trias, the only lieutenant-general of the Filipino army, surrendered on March 15.

J. H. Lata has resigned the presidency of the Telephone, Telegraph and Cable Company of America.

Cashier C. A. Johnson, who wrecked the Niles, Mich., First National Bank, has been arrested at Columbus, Ohio.

Lieut.-Col. Vidal succeeds Lieut.-Col. Cartwright as assistant adjutant-general. The latter is made inspector of musketry.

Napoleon Tremblay, of Ottawa, drank some carbolic acid as the wind-up of a spree. He will recover, although he suffered greatly.

The Japanese House of Peers has passed the taxation bills of the government, but the hostility felt toward the Ito cabinet shows no abatement.

The Liberals of West Durham will meet at Bowmanville on March 23 to select a candidate for the legislature and to hear an address from Hon. J. R. Stratton.

Edward Fitzgerald was instantly killed and Daniel O'Shay and his son injured by being run down at a crossing near Truxton, N. Y., by a Lehigh Valley milk train.

The city of New York has decided to accept the gift of Andrew Carnegie up to the limit. It will go to work immediately, so that the city can accept the gift at once.

The Ontario Government has set apart certain waters adjacent to the Indian reserve on Goulais Bay, Lake Superior, and given the red men the exclusive right to fish therein.

The exports of merchandise from the United States in the eight months ended Feb. 28 were valued at $1,015,185,574., exceeding by $95,711,903 those for the corresponding period of the last fiscal year. The imports were valued at $522,960,380, or less by $32,293,194 than those of the eight months ended Feb. 28, 1900.

East Saginaw, Mich., has 40 cases of smallpox.

St. Joseph, Mich., is a victim of flood, owing to the ice break-up.

Toronto newspaper men have formed Court Press, Independent Foresters.

The Anglo-American Zinc and Lead Company is incorporated; capital $10,000,000.

The Baptist College at Woodstock has been formally closed owing to the epidemic of scarlet fever that prevails in the building.

Sir William Macdonald has just presented McGill University with $150,000, and Miss Jessie Dow has made a gift of $60,000 to the same institution.

James Bryce, the popular and energetic manager of the Canadian Express Company at Montreal, has been appointed vice-president of the company.

The amount of mail matter originating in Chicago Thursday was 154 tons, which is far above the business of any other day in the history of the office.

$30,000 BEET SUGAR BONUS.

Wallaceburg, Ont., March 15.—A by-law to grant a bonus of $30,000 to the beet sugar factory was carried today, only seven ratepayers voting against it.

THREE YEARS AT KINGSTON.

Wingham, Ont., March 15.—Andrew Cruickshanks, who was committed for trial a week ago for attempting to shoot Miss Currie because she jilted him, was today sentenced to three years in Kingston.

WINDSOR GIRL ACCIDENTALLY SHOT.

Windsor, March 18.—Grace Nall, a colored girl, aged 17 years, who lives with her parents on McDougall street, here, near the market, shot herself in the chest yesterday afternoon with a revolver, and the wound may prove fatal. The revolver, a 32-caliber, was lying in a drawer in her brother's room. She picked up the weapon, and was examining it, when there was an explosion, and she fell to the floor with blood gushing from a wound in her breast. The bullet entered the breast and passed right over the heart.

THE HEALTH HABIT.

Just as Easy to Form as Any Other.

We do not deliberately form our pet habits but they are unconsciously acquired, and grow as we grow, and by the time we learn they are hurting us we find them too strong to be easily broken.

Then why not form a good habit, a habit which will counteract the many bad ones, in other words contract the unfashionable habit of being always well.

The best health habit to get into is to have and keep a vigorous stomach; if you have a healthy digestion you can drink your beloved coffee, smoke your favorite brand of tobacco, with little or no harm, the mischief begins when these things are forced upon the faithful stomach, without any assistance.

Form the habit of taking after meals some harmless but efficient digestive which will relieve the stomach of so much extra work.

Nature furnishes us with such digestives and when they are combined in such a pleasant preparation as Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets, they give the overworked stomach just the necessary assistance to secure perfect digestion without any of the harmful effects of cathartics and similar drugs.

The habit of taking Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets after meals is as necessary to the weak stomach as food itself, and indeed to get the benefit from food eaten, nothing better and certainly nothing safer can be used.

Many families consider Stuart's Tablets as essential in the house as knives and forks.

They consist entirely of natural digestive principles without the effect or characteristics of drugs; they have no cathartic action, but simply go to work on the food eaten and digest it.

Take into account your bad habits and the expense they entail, and then invest fifty cents in a box of Stuart's Dyspesia Tablets and see if your digestion for the next month is not vastly improved.

Ask the clerk in any drug store the name of the most successful and popular stomach remedy and he will say Stuart's.

DOCTORS GAVE HIM UP.

Hospital Treatment Also Fails to Cure—Dodd's Kidney Pills Score Another Great Victory.

Barnaby River, March 18.—Few cases of illness and recovery have excited the interest in this community, that has the kidney trouble of Mr. Cornelius Crottie.

Mr. Crottie's treatment by the doctors at home and in the hospital, and the fact that they absolutely gave him up as a case beyond all hope, is well known. His subsequent restoration by the use of Dodd's Kidney Pills reads like a miracle.

"For five years, I have suffered off and on with Kidney Trouble. Last fall I had an attack, from which the doctors had little hope of my recovery. I was obliged to go to the hospital for treatment, but it did me no good, so I came home, given up by the doctors. A friend suggested Dodd's Kidney Pills. From the first box I improved. Now I am at my work every day."

England's Goodwill.

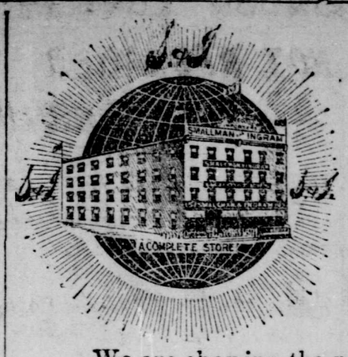
We have much to hope from cultivating the goodwill of the English people. I venture to say, as I have said before, that if the time ever comes when we are to receive that preference we shall not receive it as the result of any huckstering or bargaining between England and the colonies, but as a result of the development of that imperial sentiment which may override questions of political economy, and in the creation and development of that imperial sentiment a large and important factor has been the British preferential tariff of the Canadian Government. (Loud and continued cheering.)—From the Budget Speech.

NEW GRAIN PARASITE.

Sioux Falls, S. D., March 14.—Elevator men in the northeastern portion of the state are alarmed over the discovery made by H. H. Swift, who operates a grain elevator at Henry. While shipping grain he discovered in the middle of a huge bin of wheat what he first supposed were large bunches of molded wheat, but which, upon close inspection, proved to be a mass of small parasites, very much alive. Under a powerful microscope they seem to have eight legs, each leg having two feelers.

BACTERIA IN BOOKS HARMLESS.

Chicago, March 14.—There is no necessity for disinfecting the public library books, according to Health Commissioner Reynolds, whose opinion is based upon investigations made by Adolph Gehrmann, director of the municipal laboratory. Dr. Reynolds says: "No disease-producing bacteria were found on any of the volumes—only the ordinary bacteria usually to be found on the human skin and on everything handled by human hands.



THE WEATHER TODAY—Fine and mild.

Store closes at 7 p.m. Saturdays. Customers are respectfully requested to shop before this hour.

Wash Fabrics

We are showing the newest productions in Wash Fabrics—every new weave and all the latest colorings. Our stock without doubt was never surpassed. Many exclusive patterns are to be seen here. Our prices are remarkably low.

Plain and Figured French Flannels.

Attention is drawn to new arrivals in Plain and Figured French Flannels and All Wool Unshrinkable Flannels, such as customers have been inquiring about and waiting for.

Plain Black, Navy and Old Rose French Flannels, of very fine quality, which we are able to offer at, per yard..... 45c

Figured French Flannels, of splendid quality, in red grounds with small and large black spots, pale blue, grounds with small and large white spots, black with small white spot, navy with small white stripes, red with wide and narrow black stripes, black with purple scroll patterns. Your choice of any of these at, per yard..... 45c

The Adelina Cream All-Wool Plain Flannel, shrunk, 32 inches wide. This line we are able to sell at, per yard..... 45c

Cream Union Flannel, 27 inches wide, splendid value at per yard, 20c and..... 25c

DRESS LININGS.

Our stock of Percelaine Lining is now complete, selected from the samples of such celebrated manufacturers as Goddard & Sons, makers of Midnight Fast Black, Filbert Manufacturing Company, and others. Percelaine will undoubtedly be the popular lining for spring and summer wear. It is light in weight and very durable—a lining particularly adapted for use in the stylish waists and gowns of today, giving to the garment that soft, clinging effect so much desired.

Our line of Percelaine, in grays, brown and midnight fast black, are extra value at..... 12½c

Percelaines, in fast black and colors, in regular and delicate shades, 36 inches wide, best qualities selling at the yard 15c and..... 20c

Midnight Fast Black Percelaines are warranted absolutely fast color. They have a fine moire finish and in the better qualities are a popular substitute for silk; 36 inches wide, the yard from 12½c to..... 35c

Sensible, Satisfactory Corsets.

Her Majesty's No better wearing Corset made. Stout figures find it gives the most support and is the most perfect Corset they have ever worn. Made of best quality of Corset jean with double molded steel filling, extra strong 5-hook clasps, embroidery trim. Former price for style 250 was $4 75, on sale now for..... $3 25

New Century Made of good American jean, single strip with good steel filling, two side steels on each side, five-hook clasps, lace and baby ribbon trim, medium length. A splendid wearing corset for..... 50c

CLIMAX IMPROVED SHORT MAKE AT SAME PRICE.

Queen Moo Of Imported coutil, single, strips with good steel filling, 5-hook clasps, lace and ribbon trim top and bottom, in white black or gray. A medium short corset for..... $1 00

769 P.D. A French Model, made of French coutil; two side steels on each side, 11-inch 4-hook clasps; lace and baby ribbon trim top and bottom, in white or gray; A very popular short Corset at..... $1 50

W. B. ERECT FORM CORSETS AT $1 25, $2, $2 25 and $2 50.

We guarantee perfect-fitting and comfortable corsets when fitted by the salesladies in our Corset Department.

SMALLMAN & INGRAM

149, 151 and 153 DUNDAS STREET.

MADE SIXTY YEARS AGO

A Piano Owned by General Grant's Mother—Was Made by Mr. T. A. Heintzman, Founder of the Old Firm of Heintzman & Co.

There is in existence today a piano that was owned by General Grant's mother, some sixty years ago. The instrument, of course, is of the old-fashioned kind, but still in good condition, and its solid rosewood case is bright and polished. It was made sixty years ago by Mr. T. A. Heintzman, founder of the old firm of Heintzman & Co., Toronto, when they were engaged in the manufacture of pianos in Buffalo, N. Y. The splendid condition in which it is found today, combined with its beauty of tone, is evidence of the fine work that Heintzman & Co. have always put into their pianos. There are hundreds of this firm's instruments throughout the Dominion, that have passed down from grandfather to father, and again down to another generation. It is conscientious work like this that has given this old-established Canadian firm their preeminence as pianomakers, not alone in their own country, but the world over, and which has made their warerooms in London a source of frequent visit from the leading musicians in this section of the Dominion. It is always a pleasure to sit down at a piano bearing the name of Heintzman & Co.

THE NUISANCE QUESTION.

To the Editor of The Advertiser:

Having seen in The Advertiser an account by Miss Franks about a manure nuisance in a certain lane, I might state that it is upon the owner's own premises and not upon Miss Frank's place. It is a general rule for the owner to put the manure there every year and put it on the land after the frost of winter is over. It would be better if some of these women looked after the slops at their own back doors. Are farmers to put their manure a mile from any house just because there is a smell of ammonia from the manure pile? Look again at the city manure piles around livery stables and other places. Truly "cleanliness is next to godliness," but there is little of either put into practics. I remember reading about a certain city compared to a certain woman—Ezekiel xvi., 30. Read the chapter through and learn a lesson in the cities. It is wise to be clean and prevent disease as far as possible. Deuteronomy, xxviii. There is more to follow.

LEONARD BARTLETT.

London, Ont., March 16, 1901.

KILLED FOR CHICKEN STEALING

Chicago, March 18.—As a sequel to a chicken theft, Charles Rinck was shot and killed by Daniel Peters. Within ten minutes after the shooting a large crowd gathered at Peter's home and threatened to lynch him, but the arrival of the patrol wagon with policemen prevented any mob violence.

Nervous exhaustion and debility are the effects of a trying summer. DR. SIEGERT'S Angostura Bitters feed the nerve cells and restore vitality.—[Advt.

Receipts of $51,000,000.

A glance at the receipts and expenditures in comparison with the previous years will show that there was a general increase all along the line:

	1898-9	1899-1900.	Increase.
Customs	$25,316,841	$28,374,147	$3,067,306
Excise	9,641,227	9,868,075	226,848
Postoffice	3,193,777	3,205,535	11,758
Miscellaneous.	8,589,404	9,582,237	992,833
Totals	$46,741,249	$51,029,994	$4,288,745

It may be remembered that in speaking of the prospects of the year in the budget speech of last March I expressed the opinion that the receipts for the year would pass the $50,000,000 mark. The figures I have just given will show that that anticipation was realized. The receipts of the year have been over $51,000,000. (Cheers.)—Mr. Fielding's Budget Speech.

DOMINION SAVINGS BANKS.

Ottawa, March 18.—The total deposits in the government savings banks during January exceeded the withdrawals by only $12,788. The figures were: Deposits, $192,798; withdrawals, $180,010; balance on Feb. 28, $15,741,312. In Toronto the balance on Jan. 31 was $676,272. The deposits amounted to $7,252 and the withdrawals to $6,136, leaving the balance $677,387 at the end of February.

TO PEOPLE THE NORTHWEST.

Halifax, N. S., March 17.—The royal mail steamer Lake Champlain, which arrived today from Liverpool, brought 28 returning Canadian soldiers and 1,000 steerage passengers. The immigrants were composed of different nationalities, and the majority of them are bound for the Canadian Northwest. Over 500 of them were landed here, and they left for the west by the first train tonight. The others were taken to St. John.

Shattered Nerves and Weakened System,

THE AFTER EFFECTS OF LA GRIPPE.

Have You Had La Grippe?

Did it Leave any After Effects?

If it did, read what Mr. F. J. Brophy, of Montreal, Que., has to say of the good Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills did him.

He Writes: I had a very severe attack of la grippe, which left me all run down, very nervous and extremely weak. I could not sleep at night and was troubled with profuse perspiration, which caused me much annoyance. Hearing of the good effects of Milburn's Pills, I began taking them. Much to my gratification they braced me up, invigorated my whole system, and made me feel like a new man. I can recommend them to all suffering as I did.

JOTTINGS FROM NEAR-BY PLACES

STRATHROY.

Strathroy, March 18.—At a meeting of the Collegiate Literary Society, Mr. L. H. Smith delivered a very pwractical address on economy.

The postponed meeting of the patrons of the Western Dairy School will be held tomorrow (Tuesday) afternoon at 2 o'clock, and will be addressed by the Hon. Thomas Ballantyne, of Stratford, Dr. Mills and Prof. Graham, of the O. A. C., Guelph; J. D. Wheaton, of Toronto, J. M. Jones, of Bowmanville, and Dr. Neu, of London. Mrs. Miller will give an address on "Home Dairy Work."

Miss Mabel O'Neil, of London, is the guest of relatives in town.

John Lee is opening a Chinese laundry on Front street one door west of Haney's hardware store.

The death took place in Metcalfe, on Thursday, March 14, 1901, of George Smith, aged 74 years. The remains were interred on Sunday afternoon at Strathroy Cemetery.

The Strathroy Collegiate Literary Society met Friday afternoon at the usual time. The chair was taken by Mr. C. Auld. After reading the minutes o fthe last meeting the following programme was presented: recitation, Miss McIntyre; piano solo, Miss Dora Faxon; recitation, Miss Stewart; essays were also read by Miss Saunders, Mr. Harry Lindsay, Sutherland Cuddy, Z. Murray, Chas. E. Cummings, Walter Logan and Mr. McKenzie. The meeting closed with the National Anthem.

Mrs. Bert Mitchell and Miss A. Mitchell are visiting friends in Parkhill and vicinity.

DELAWARE.

Delaware, March 16.—At the annual meeting of the patrons of the Delaware cheese factory, recently held, a very encouraging report was given by the secretary of the operations of the factory during the past year. The amount of milk sent to the factory wsa 1,085,209 pounds, producing 98,859 pounds of cheese. There was not a culled or rejected cheese during the entire season. The highest market price was invariably paid for it whenever offered for sale, and was all disposed of, and patrons received their money early in December. The average value of milk was 77½c per 100 pounds. The average value of cheese per pound was 10.31 cents. It took 10.97 pounds of milk to make a pound of cheese. The total amount of sales was $10,223 44. By the advice of Mr. F. Boyes, the cheesemaker, the patrons decided to lay in a stock of ice for the better preservation of the cheese during the heated term. The prospects for the coming season are good; more patrons with more milk are expected. The firm under the able management of Mr. F. Boyes, intend to carry on business in the same way as last year, and charge the same price for manufacturing cheese.

Mr. Rodie McDougall Speaks.

Vankleek Hill, March 18.—Mr. McDougall has stated that Catarrhozone did him more lasting good than any other medicine he ever used. It absolutely cured him of Nasal Catarrh, and he confidently states that although others may praise their preparations, yet Catarrhozone is unequaled as a sure cure for catarrh.

A doctor out west claims that apple cider vinegar, taken in reasonable quantities, is a sure preventive of smallpox.

HUTCH

Is for headache, stomach pains and every distress which proceeds from a disordered digestion. There are a great many people who mistake the nature of their stomach. They fancy that it is a scrap basket into which they can cram anything and everything. The stomach supplies the food for the entire body. On it every other organ is dependent. So that special care should be taken of their primary function. Hutch will look after your digestion, clean out all nastiness and give you health. Hutch is a doctor for ten cents.

All druggists, or by mail from the Woodward Medicine Company, Limited, 299 Washington Street, Buffalo, N.Y.