

Chicoutimi.—The Village of Chicoutimi, already so remarkable for its progress in education, will now be endowed with a convent. The building intended for the institution measures 74 feet by 40; it is two stories in height without the attics, and will be completely finished on 1st September next. The people owe this fine institution to the indefatigable zeal of the Rev. Curé, Mr. Racine, the founder.

The school for boys will be located in the building formerly used as a model school under the direction of Mr. Sifroi Laroche, a pupil of the Laval Normal School. In another apartment of the same building will be opened an elementary school for young girls, for whom it would be difficult to attend the convent. The commissioners and Mr. Cloutier the secretary-treasurer, deserve great praise.

There are eight schools in the Parish of Chicoutimi; they all succeeded well. The opening of the convent will necessitate a fresh division of the school sections, other than that of the municipalities of Chicoutimi and Laterrière. A new scheme of division will soon be submitted to you.

Grande Baie.—The Model School of Grande Baie increases in efficiency from day to day. I assisted at the public examination of the institution and was perfectly satisfied. Two additional small elementary schools also contribute their quota to the development of education in this parish. The books of the secretary-treasurer are well kept. The Rev. Mr. Martel, curé, has at length succeeded in establishing the assessment.

St. Alphonse.—There are in this municipality six schools, tolerably well kept.

Laterrière.—This municipality supports three schools, which have made remarkable progress this year. The commissioners have, unfortunately, been compelled to meet a heavy defalcation on the part of their secretary-treasurer. On examining the books, I found that the commissioners were entitled to be completely exonerated from all blame. The sureties will be the only parties to suffer loss.

St. Joseph.—This municipality has three schools, one of which has had but little success, owing to the indifference of the parents as regards the attendance of their children. The school under the care of Miss Philomène Gagnon, is an honor to the parish.

Township of Harvey.—The commissioners of this municipality intended to establish an additional school, this year, but they have been disappointed in their expectations. The only teacher they succeeded in procuring was a female teacher without a diploma. They hope to be more successful next year.

L'Anse St. Jean.—This municipality has an excellent school, attended by a large number of children, and well conducted.

Hebertville.—This municipality has three schools, one of which is doing well. Of the others, one is somewhat inferior, owing to a lack of assiduity on the part of the pupils; the third was doing well, but its classes have been interrupted by the marriage of the schoolmistress. Its assessments are collected with difficulty owing to the poverty of the ratepayers. This, more than anything else, is the cause of the financial embarrassment of the commissioners.

Ouitchouan.—This locality has been repeatedly devastated by fires. The grain was devoured by insects last year, and last spring the young crop was almost completely destroyed by fire, and only partially replaced. These misfortunes have plunged the settlers into privation and debt. Two schools were opened, but one of them was closed in February, in consequence of misconduct on the part of the schoolmistress; the second has given satisfaction to all the rate-payers. The Rev. M. Girard, the missionary of the locality, anticipates that he will be unable to support two schools. The system of assessments has not been established; and, up to the present, the settlers have exhausted their means in the struggle to meet their engagements.

Extracts from Mr. BOIVIN'S Reports.

COUNTIES OF CHARLEVOIX AND SAGUENAY.

I had, last year, in my district 46 elementary schools, four model schools, an academy for boys and an academy for girls, or convent for instruction. These various institutions are attended by 2509 pupils. Comparing these figures with the statistics of the division for the year 1859, the period of my first report, you will find an increase of nearly 50 per cent. in the number of children attending school. This is a splendid result, if you consider the disadvantageous position of this part of the country. I am satisfied with the progress attained in the teaching of reading, grammar and particularly of arithmetic; mental calculus is taught in all the schools.

The scholars are taught to understand history and to analyse it, and by that means the facts are more strongly impressed on their minds.

Generally speaking, the writing is not so good as it might be. The commissioners are to blame for this. They neglect to purchase copies and paper for the children, and in many places they leave the matter

entirely to the parents. When the parents are too poor to provide them, the children do not learn to write.

Ste. Fidèle.—In the County of Charlevoix, the municipality of Ste. Fidèle supports three schools under control, conducted by female teachers, who receive salaries varying from \$80 to \$100. Two of these schools are well conducted and making progress; in the third, there is great room for improvement, owing to the frequent absence of the children and the want of books and paper.

The financial affairs under the direction of the Rev. Mr. Beaubien, curé of the parish, are in a good condition.

Malbaie.—The seven schools in Malbaie have made marked progress during the year. That which is conducted by Mr. Mailloux deserves special mention, as well in consideration of its progress as of the good conduct of its scholars. The model school for boys had just been placed under the direction of a male teacher, who enters on his duties for the first time. The central school was in the same position, the schoolmistress having quite recently arrived. A portion of Ste. Magdeleine range having been annexed to the municipality of Ste. Irénée, the commissioners will soon be enabled to establish a new school in this range. The finances of the municipality are in a prosperous state.

St. Agnès.—Of the four schools in this municipality, two are well conducted, and two may be classed as passable. I consider the school kept by Mlle. Roy as one of the best in my district. The commissioners have succeeded in repaying the loan they had contracted a few years ago, and I trust they will now take in hand the improvement of the material appliances of the schools.

St. Irénée.—The three schools of this municipality are in a prosperous state. The model school is conducted by Miss Beaumont, who teaches 60 pupils with much success. The accounts of the corporation are well kept and the commissioners discharge their duties with great punctuality.

Eboulements.—This municipality has seven schools, including the model school conducted by Miss Côté. All these schools are well kept, but those conducted by Mr. Godreault surpass the rest in success; this young man teaches 60 pupils. The teachers have not been paid regularly. This is, I think, due to the fact that the collecting of the arrears of rates has up to the present time been neglected. I have every reason to think that this state of things will not last, and that there will be a favorable change this year.

Township of Settrington.—There is but one school open in this municipality. It is, moreover, badly attended and badly supported. A regular assessment is soon to be organized—the only means of putting the schools on a proper footing—and things will then change.

St. Urbain.—The state of embarrassment of this municipality, resulting from a bad harvest and the payment of assessments for the erection of a church, has rendered it impossible for the people to support more than two schools under control. These schools are in a state of remarkable prosperity. A third school, supported by the generous gifts of zealous individuals, was opened last fall. The accounts of the municipality are kept in a satisfactory manner.

Ste. Placide.—This municipality has two schools in operation. Hitherto they have sufficed to meet the wants of the locality. One of them is well kept, but the other is inferior. Considering the poverty and isolation of the ratepayers, we are not entitled to look for any better results for some years to come. The commissioners have not as yet been able to secure the services of a person competent to keep their accounts; and if I did not watch their affairs closely, they would, certainly be unable to carry out the law.

Baie St. Paul.—Eight elementary schools, an academy for boys, and a convent are devoted to the instruction of youth in this municipality. A large number of schoolmistresses, who are now teaching in this county and elsewhere, were trained in the convent here. The average number of pupils, including day scholars and boarders, is from 90 to 100. The academy for boys is now conducted by Messrs. Thomas Tremblay and Simon Côté, pupils of the Laval Normal School. These young teachers display great zeal, and success rewards their efforts.

The elementary schools, with two exceptions, are well conducted. The commissioners know their duties and discharge them well. The accounts are well kept.

Petite Rivière.—This municipality supports two schools under control. One of them is well kept, the other was closed at the period of my last visit, so that I can say nothing about it. It would be well if another school were established in the first section, for by reason of the distance, a good many of the ratepayers cannot avail themselves of the present school. The finances of the corporation are in a good state.

Township of Sales.—There is but one school in this municipality, and its condition did not give me satisfaction. The schoolmistress