

are so much struck with this discrepancy that we examine the details of the table, and find there is again a serious mistake in the figures. Simcoe is credited with a school attendance of 18,711, while its average is stated at only 3,731, but there is internal evidence to shew that the 3 thousands should be 8. Brant has a school attendance of 5,153, and an average out of this of 4,510; again the thousands figure is wrong, the table shews that the 4 should be 2. With such mistakes as these we give up in despair any attempt at comparison from the table. Our average attendance compares very unfavourably with that in England and Scotland. In Scotland for 1878 it was 76 per cent. of the number on the registers, and in England it was 69 per cent. These figures are worth the serious attention of those who have control over our schools; and it is worth their while to inquire whether we are likely to maintain the educational pre-eminence we claim for our school system while the attendance compares so unfavourably with that of other and less favoured lands.

Would it not be worth a little extra labour, which the Minister might well cause to be bestowed upon this Report before it is issued, to shew, for instance, that little over 50 per cent. of all our scholars attend more than half the number of days the schools are open; also to exhibit the percentage of average attendance in each county, city, town and village, and thus display the strictness of some school corporations and the laxity of others in this important matter.

The interest that is now taken by the press in educational affairs is a guarantee that any effort of the Minister in this direction would be rewarded by ample publicity, and by judicious criticism. The total expenditure for all public school purposes was \$2,889,347, which is \$12.87 per pupil in average attendance. In England the corresponding item was \$10.18, and in Scotland \$10.42.

There were 4,990 schools giving employment to 6,473 teachers, of whom 3,060 were males. These numbers shew a decrease of 150 schools, and an increase of five teachers on the previous year. As the number of

pupils decreased as well as the number of schools, we may conclude that there are now fewer scholars to each teacher. This, if other things are favourable, is a guarantee that the training will be more thorough. 2,052 teachers are Methodists, 2,042 Presbyterians, 949 Church of England, 789 Roman Catholics, of whom 456 are employed in the public schools and the remainder in the separate schools. The balance of the teachers belong, in varying numbers, to a great variety of denominations. Of the teachers employed, 210 hold 1st class Provincial certificates, 1,409 hold 2nd class, and 3,904 hold 3rd class county board certificates. These numbers shew a decrease of 40 holding 1st class, of 22 holding 3rd class, but an increase of 105 holding 2nd class. In addition to these there were 328 teachers holding 1st class old county board certificates, 142 holding 2nd class, and of holding 3rd class.

These figures shew that more than one-half the teachers of the Province are of the lowest class, or those who have the least experience in their work, and who, if we may be guided by the grade of their certificates are but imperfectly fitted for what they undertake. This preponderance, which for the present is likely to continue, should direct increased attention to professional training, so that what the teachers lack in theoretical knowledge, they may compensate for by experience in school-room work.

While the number of teachers holding 3rd class certificates has decreased, it is a significant fact that those holding interim certificates have increased by 11, making the number of persons in charge of schools in the Province who hold no legal certificate, 480. When there is such a superabundance of legally qualified teachers who are prepared to occupy any situation at a reasonable salary, is it not time that Mr. Crooks abolished the permit system for ever? If one county has not enough of duly qualified teachers, let it be supplied from another that has an overflow. It is true that some counties object to employ teachers with endorsed certificates, but surely these would be better