

*County of Essex.*

*District No. 1.*—I feel much gratified in being able to state, that many of the School sections, mentioned below, which, owing to some previous difficulties, had not yet complied with the regulations in regard to school accommodations, leave now nothing to be desired. Through the energy of their Trustees, good school-houses have been built in School Sections, Nos. 3 and 4 Sandwich West; No. 5, Sandwich East; Nos. 2, 4 and 6 Maidstone, and Nos. 2, 7 and 8 Tilbury West. All these Schools are provided with comfortable seats, some of them with patented ones. I am pleased to say, that the school-houses which have been erected these last two years, greatly surpass those built formerly.

The increase in the average attendance of pupils on 1875, has been during the first six months of 1876, 100, and during the last term of the same year, 172. The number of children in my Inspectorate, who have attended school in the course of a year, is 4,643, of whom 890 between 7 and 12, have attended less than four months or 80 days, and 105 of the same age have not attended any school. There is a general complaint made by the Teachers of the irregular attendance of the pupils at school. However, I must admit, that we are fast gaining on that subject every year. Education is better appreciated by our rural population. Teachers command greater respect and receive better salaries. The time when they were considered (by a certain class of people) as on a par with labourers, has now passed.

The Teachers' Convention which was held in Sandwich last fall, and which was honoured by the presence of the Honourable Minister of Education, and attended by a large number of our best citizens, did a great deal of good in our community. The wise remarks made by the Minister in his address, the good advice which he gave to Teachers and friends of education, along with words of encouragement, were highly prized, for they have had a good effect in the whole County.

Some years ago, the number of qualified Teachers able to teach both French and English in those schools situated among the French population of this County, was limited. Now, I am pleased to say, that the number of our Teachers, in general, is increasing every year, and that those who did not deserve the name, or obstinately followed the old routine in their method of teaching, are replaced by better ones. I feel satisfied, and do not fear to say, that with respect to education, the County of Essex is not behind most of our other counties.

*Town of Sandwich.*—There are three Schools in this Town, one for the Protestant community, one for the Catholic, and the other for the coloured population. The two former have two departments, each of them with assistants. 298 children of school age attend these Schools in the course of the year; none between 7 and 12 years have been deprived of that benefit.

These Schools have never been in a more flourishing condition, or better attended than they are at present. Their management by Trustees and Teachers is all that can be desired.

*Town of Amherstburgh.*—The Roman Catholic Separate School of this Town, which is under my supervision, continues to be partly under the management of the good Sisters of J. M. J., who spare no pains for the advancement of the pupils entrusted to their care. I cannot but repeat what I have said before: the Roman Catholics of Amherstburgh must feel gratified in having such devoted Teachers among them. The Senior department (boys), is conducted by an efficient male Teacher.

In conclusion, I will mention that if so much has been done for education in Essex, it is due to the hearty concurrence I have always received from the Trustees, Teachers and friends of education in general.

F. GIBARDOT,  
Inspector, No. 1 Essex.

*Town of Chatham.*

*February 6th, 1877.*—The state of the schools, is upon the whole as satisfactory as could be expected under the circumstances. The attendance was more than usually affected by sickness. Diphtheria was very prevalent during the latter part of the year, and even still is. There is, however, no doubt, but much of the irregularity of attendance is owing to the want of due care and attention on the part of parents themselves, who exact services from their children during school hours. The absence of children from school, is, however, a matter often of necessity; but the evil effects on themselves, and others, are not the less real.

Toward the latter part of the year, the giving of cards was discontinued, as it was found that they were not carefully preserved. A record is, however, kept of the standing of pupils during each week; such as; *who were deemed worthy of merit cards; how many were awarded, and for what?* If the Board determine to give prizes,

they will be able to learn the standing of each pupil during the year, or period of attending school.

The "Pupils weekly report" has been in use since the latter part of the year, and the good influence has been apparent. There has not been, *practically*, any lack of accommodation. Nothing more than this is meant. The answer in full may be inferred, when it is stated that there are other than Public Schools. There are Separate and Private, as well as Public ones.

There is desk accommodation for 1140 in the Public Schools; allowing 9 square feet for each pupil, there is accommodation for 1090; allowing 10 cubic feet for each pupil, there is accommodation for 1248.

According to the census taken by the Board according to law, the number of children in Chatham between the ages of 5 and 16, was 1946.

The area attached to the Central School was enlarged last year by the addition of an adjacent lot, of about 555 square yards.

Nine pupils were admitted to the High school from the Chatham Central School, during the year 1876.

All the teachers who were in the service of the Board during the latter part of 1876, have been secured for another term.

The Professor of Music has also been retained.

There was no addition made to the Library in 1876, but I am happy to say, that at its last meeting, the Board voted a sum for that purpose.

A. McCOLL,  
Inspector, Chatham.

## IV. Departmental Notices.

## 1. DISCONTINUANCE OF THE JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.

From the official notice published on page 97 of this *Journal*, our readers will see that our editorial labours of thirty years cease with this number.

"*The Journal of Education for Upper Canada*" was started as an educational venture by the late indefatigable Chief Superintendent of Education, the Rev. Dr. Ryerson, in January, 1848. For some years Dr. Ryerson incurred the entire pecuniary risk of the publication of the *Journal*. It was ultimately constituted the official organ of the Department by the Government.

For about 25 years the *Journal* has been gratuitously sent to every School Corporation, and Local Superintendent of Schools in the Province. It has, we humbly believe, been a powerful lever in the hands of the Department in disseminating large and correct views on popular education, and in constantly stimulating local effort for the upbuilding of our school system. It has afforded the best information available in regard to the advantages of Free Schools, thorough supervision and improvement in modes of teaching the schools; necessity of higher qualifications on the part of our teachers; improved school architecture and ventilation of school rooms; kind and judicious discipline in the school room; and the liberal and generous treatment of the teacher in regard to salary, material comforts, vacation and holidays. Nor have we lost sight of the æsthetic culture of our people in their rural homes; their school houses and school premises, and the neat and appropriate adornment of the school room, their supply with school maps, apparatus, library and prize books. These and other kindred subjects, affecting largely the growth and prosperity of our schools, and the upbuilding of our school system, have been the steady aim of the *Journal* to promote. The result has been most gratifying; and every patriotic Canadian points to-day with pleasure and pride to the educational position which thus far Ontario has so honourably won.

Toronto, August 12th, 1877.