

*Schools in operation.*—There were 137 schools in operation in the Winter term, 63 in the North and 74 in the South District; and 153 during the Summer term, viz: 70 in the North and 83 in the South District, making a total of 290 during the year, being but one more than in the preceding year.

*Time in session.*—These were in session an aggregate of 31305 days, viz:—15534 during the Winter, and 15771 in the Summer term, being 727 days in advance of 1875.

*Pupils Registered.*—In Winter there were 6883 pupils enrolled, 2998 in the north and 3885 in the South; in Summer there were 7299, viz: 3158 in the north and 4241 in the south district (making a yearly total of 14282) being 36 more than in the year 1875. The total number of children at school for some portion of the year was 8493, being an increase of 103 over the previous year. According to the B Returns there are 8155, and according to the A Returns 7996 children between the ages of 5 and 15 years, a discrepancy of 487; the number between 5 and 15 that attended school in the Summer was 6932, leaving 1044 children of school age not at school at all. The number reported last year was 1590, hence there has been a gain of 456 during the year. In Winter there were only 22 pupils enrolled under 5 years, in summer there were 102; in Winter the number over 15 years was 814, in the Summer 365: in Winter there were 3817 boys and 3066 girls; in Summer 3788 boys and 3611 girls.

*Attendance.*—The grand total days attendance by all the pupils was in Winter was 413,467.5; in Summer 419,246, making a yearly aggregate of 831,713 days, shewing an excess of 69,732.5 days over that of 1875. The total days in 1875 exceeded that of 1874 by 12,240 days, and that of 1876 exceeds that of 1875 by 69,732½. The average attendance for the full term was 3776.9, and for the time in session 4085.7, being an increase of 471.9 and 401 respectively over the previous year. The No. daily present on an average for time in session per 100 enrolled, was in Winter 52.9, in Summer 55.2; No. daily present or an average for the full term per 100 registered, was in Winter 50, in Summer 51.05; being 4.1 and 3.3 respectively over that of 1875.

With one school more in operation, 36 more pupils registered, and 727 days more in session, we have an increase of 69,732 days attendance, with a proportionate increased average and per centage, is most encouraging to me officially, and should be gratifying to every friend of Education. If such progress as this continue, as I hope it will, the necessity of a Compulsory Attendance Law will be greatly diminished in this County at least.

*Teachers.*—During the Winter there were 142 licensed teachers and assistants employed, 4 were substitutes. The teachers of the evening schools were those of the day schools. In Summer there were 156 teachers and 2 assistants, 8 were substitutes. There was the same number in Winter as in the preceding year, but an increase of 8 in Summer.

WINTER TERM.

|              | A. | B. | C. | D. | E. | Total. |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|--------|
| Males.....   | 1  | 26 | 17 | 13 |    | 57     |
| Females..... |    | 1  | 36 | 36 | 12 | 85     |
| Total.....   | 1  | 27 | 53 | 49 | 12 | 142    |