

REPORT OF THE MINISTER OF
EDUCATION FOR THE YEAR 1889
WITH STATISTICS FOR 1888.

THE regularity with which this report is published, year after year, is liable to make us overlook the important interests which it represents. Many may not be aware that the expenditure upon Public, High and Separate Schools is largely in excess of that for the whole affairs of the Province controlled by the Government. Not far from five and a quarter millions of dollars were spent on these schools in 1888, while the expenditure of all the departments of the Government was little over three and a half millions. Taking the Registrar General's estimate of the population as 2,148,971, the cost per head for education was about two dollars and a half, while the whole affairs of the Province were managed for about one dollar and three quarters per head. In view of these facts it is satisfactory to know that the greater part of the expenditure for schools is under the control of the people themselves, and if it is not judicious they have only themselves to blame.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

Registered, Public Schools, 464,200; Separate Schools, 31,323; High Schools and Collegiate Institutes, 17,742. Average, Public Schools, 228,801; Separate Schools, 17,136; High Schools and Collegiate Institutes, 10,464. Percentage of average attendance to total attendance, Public Schools, 50; Separate Schools, 55; High Schools and Collegiate Institutes, 59. The above figures show an increase on the previous year of pupils enrolled of .3 per cent. in the Public Schools, .3 per cent. in the Separate Schools, and 1.6 per cent. in the High Schools, while the school population of the Province increased .7 per cent. The

percentage of average attendance is almost stationary. The above figures show that in the Public Schools only 50 out of every 100 pupils attended the whole year, while Mr. Ross' tables show that 223,070 pupils attended less than half the year, of this number there were 87,874 between the ages of seven and thirteen years. A clause in our law demands that children between these ages should attend some school for at least 100 days, but beyond showing to outsiders how complete our system of public education is, it might as well not be on the statute book. Whose duty is it to enforce this compulsory clause? The Minister of Education implies that it rests on the trustees. But to whom must the people at large look to see that the trustees do their duty? We know of no one but the Minister himself, and so long as he rests content with drawing attention to the laxity of trustees in this particular by a paragraph in his report year after year, he is practically neglecting a most important duty of his office. Of course these remarks apply with greater force to the 5,744 children between seven and thirteen years of age who attended no school whatever. Our criminal population is largely recruited from these two classes of children, and surely it would be greater economy to train them to be industrious citizens than to have them prey upon the country as criminals.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE.

Receipts, Public Schools, \$4,178,237; Separate Schools, \$278,114; High Schools and Collegiate Institutes, \$684,266. Expenditure, Public Schools, \$3,599,361; Separate Schools, \$260,003; High Schools and Collegiate Institutes, \$637,654. Cost per pupil in average attendance, Public Schools, \$16; Separate Schools, \$15; High Schools and Collegiate Institutes, \$61.