

The number of schools was 5,252, in which 6,911 teachers were employed; of these 2,829 were males, and 4,082 females. In 1879 the excess of female teachers was 300, in 1882, 733, while in 1883 it had risen to 1,253. It would be interesting to know the causes of this rapid increase. Only 211 of the teachers employed held First Class Provincial Certificates, more than one-half of the remainder held Certificates of the Third Class, and 853 held Interim, or other Certificates of a temporary kind. The number of these needs careful watching on the part of Mr. Ross, as we infer from the remarks in more than one of the Inspector's reports that the granting of them is liable to abuse.

The report of the Separate Schools shows that they are in a fairly prosperous condition. Their number was 124; the number of pupils attending them was 26,177 and the average attendance 13,705, or 52 per cent. of the number registered. This is 6 per cent. higher than that of the Public Schools. The total expenditure was \$153,611, which makes the cost per pupil in average attendance \$11.20.

The total receipts for High School purposes was \$378,889, of which the Legislative Grant formed 22½ per cent., the Municipal Grant 55 per cent., the amount from fees 8 per cent.; the remainder was derived from varied sources. The total expenditure was \$348,946, of which \$266,317, or 76 per cent. was devoted to teachers' salaries. The number of pupils enrolled was 11,843; the average attendance was 6,454, or 55 per cent. This was nine per cent. higher than the average of the Public Schools for the Province, though it was only equal to that for the towns, and was four per cent. less than that for the cities. It will be interesting to compare the cost of education in the three classes of schools. The cost per pupil in average attendance in High Schools was \$54.07, in Public Schools \$14.42, and in Separate Schools \$11.20. The difference between the two latter is explained by the fact to which the Report directs attention, that quite a number of the Separate School teachers are members of religious orders, and receive merely nominal salaries. It will be seen that the cost of educating a pupil in a High School is nearly four times that in a Public School. As complaints have more than once been made of the unjust discrimination in the apportionment of the Legislative Grant to Public and High Schools, it may be of use to compare the amount given to each. To Public Schools the amount of the Legislative Grant was \$265,468, that to High Schools was \$84,989.75; the average attendance in the former was 215,561, in the latter 6,454. From these figures we learn that the allowance per pupil in the one case was \$1.13, in the other \$13.17, so that the grant per pupil to High Schools was nearly twelve times as much as that to Public Schools. No one will deny that the Public Schools have the first claim upon the Legislature, and if the present allowance to the High Schools is just, that to the Public Schools should be considerably increased. But why should not the grant to the former be made to depend not only upon the Municipal Grant but upon a minimum fee? Of the 104 High Schools in the Province, sixty-seven are free, and only thirty-seven charge fees varying from 50c. to \$26 per annum. If each school charged a fee of, say, \$1 per month, its income would be materially increased, and it would become less of a burden to its own locality and to the Province. The Government sets a good example in this respect by charging a fee of \$2 and \$1.50 per month, respectively, in the Provincial Model Schools in Toronto and Ottawa. If such a plan as this were adopted we should have fewer needy High Schools.

We find it impossible to give any satisfactory information regarding the Normal Schools, owing to discrepancy in the figures. For instance, the number reported on page 85 as attending the Toronto Normal School in 1883 and 1884 is 219, while the number attending the school to whom Second Class Certificates were granted is stated on page 133 to be 277. With regard to the Ottawa School a similar discrepancy occurs. Neither can we give any definite information of the expense of these institutions, or the cost per student, owing to the fact that the items are included with those of the Model Schools attached to them.

Amongst the many improvements Mr. Ross has introduced into his Report perhaps none is so valuable as the series of Comparative Statements which appear for the first time. These show the condition of elementary education in Ontario as compared with a number of the States of the American Union, and with Great Britain and Ireland. Our ten cities, too, are thus compared with ten of the leading cities amongst our neighbours. We gather from these that Ontario has a larger percentage of school population enrolled than any of the States named except Massachusetts, that the cost of education with us is considerably less per pupil than the average with them, but that our average attendance is very much lower than that of any of the States in question. This fact elicits an explanation in the Report of the unique way in which our Department strikes the average. In the United States and in Britain the average number is obtained by dividing the *actual* number of teaching days into the total attendance, while our average is found by dividing the *legal* number of teaching days into the total attendance. For example, the legal number of teaching days for 1883 in cities was 212. If any city had its schools open a smaller number of days than this, say 200, the average attendance would be found by dividing the total number of days attended by 212, not by 200. The result of such a process is misleading, and we trust Mr. Ross will see his way to introduce the British and United States System into his Report for next year. The comparison between the cities shows the following striking results: The percentage of school population enrolled in the United States and Ontario cities respectively was 51 and 90, the percentage of average attendance to pupils enrolled was 68 and 56, and the cost per pupil in average attendance was \$25 in the States and \$13 in Ontario. These statistics show that our cities educate a much larger proportion of school population at about one-half the cost. The statements show that in Britain the cost of education is

less than with us, and, except in Ireland, the average attendance much higher. It will be seen from this analysis of the first part of the Report before us that the condition of elementary and secondary education in Ontario is of a hopeful character, and if Mr. Ross will devote his energies to the remedy of such defects as we have directed attention to, and aim with singleness of purpose to advance the educational interests of the country he will be able in his next Report to show even better results than he does in the present one.

The remaining part of the Report is devoted to recording the proceedings of the Educational Department, to reports from Inspectors, particularly on the education of Indian children, which in its present low condition is hardly worthy of the name, and on the County Model Schools, which are in a flourishing condition. Mr. Mulock gives a synopsis of work done by the University during 1883 and 1884; and Dr. Wilson gives an interesting report of University College and the School of Practical Science. We have also a report on Upper Canada College by the Principal. The last fifty-four pages are devoted to Mechanics' Institutes and the Art Schools. In regard to the former, we learn that there has been a decided movement of the dry bones among them. If this is to result in renewed and vigorous life, it must be by their being under the inspection and guidance of a thoroughly educated man, who is in sympathy not alone with "Art Education," but with all the intellectual movements of the day. In the table of Receipts and Expenditure, we find that \$1,327.66 was paid for Scientific, and \$2,163.69 for General Lectures to Mechanics' Institutes throughout the country; but though this money came from the Government, no information is vouchsafed as to who the lecturers were, or what subjects they took up. The Ontario School of Art was founded and nurtured with a good deal of self-denial and fostering care by the Ontario Society of Artists. This body, we regret to learn, resigned its connection with the School last summer. With the Ontario School of Art are affiliated the art classes conducted by Mechanics' Institutes, and several other institutions throughout the Province. On page 239 appears a report of the Treasurer of the School without any signature to it. One of the items in his report does not tally with statements on the previous page. There we are informed that 112 students joined the evening classes in the first session of 1884. As the fees were \$3 per term, payable strictly in advance, the receipts from this source should be \$336; but a deduction to 15 teachers and 22 Normal School students of \$1.50 each brings the amount to \$280.50 against \$213.25 in the Report. How is this difference of \$67.25 to be accounted for? CENSOR.

HERE AND THERE.

TORONTO is now a city of which her sons may well be proud, and whose future is most promising if it may be gauged by the progress already made. But it should be remembered that corporate growth, like that of humanity, if too rapid is liable to exhaust the strength and to produce a debility requiring the utmost watchfulness. The most optimistic local patriot will hardly deny that the present indebtedness and insanitary condition of Toronto, whilst the natural outcome of marvellous development, are matters of grave concern. In their haste to make a great city, former municipal Fathers have pledged the civic credit to an enormous extent, and have been content to leave the general health to Providence. The educated classes who have all along seen the folly of this course, and the trading community who have been blinded to it by their haste to get rich, must share the burthen of the blame—the latter, for their indifference to municipal affairs, the former for holding themselves aloof from public service. The recent elections afford some slight hope that the rate-payers are awakening to a sense of the situation, and that a better class of men may be induced to undertake the conduct of public business. The unfortunate depression in trade may turn out to be a not unmitigated evil, since it will tend to make the careful citizen look to his out-goings. Taxes are paid readily when work is plentiful and wages are high, even though jobbery be rampant and incompetence supreme. The ratepayer has now time—too much time in many cases—to think of the possible consequences of a tainted and inadequate water supply, a defective sewage system, and a befouled water-front. He will be apt to look for the underlying motives which induce ward representatives to vote away large sums of money for buildings not actually yet wanted, whilst improvements affecting the city's dearest interests are allowed to go by the board. Mayor Manning is fighting an up-hill battle in opposing the attempt to give preference to the building of a new Court House over sanitary reform and water improvements, but he has the best wishes of honest citizens in his endeavour, and the glory will be greater if victory is won against long and interested odds.

For the special information of the gentlemen who venture persistently to make comparison between the condition of the workingman in Canada and in England, and who are evidently in a state of Egyptian darkness on all matters relating to the Mother Country, it may perhaps be considerate to state that, having an eye to the actual value of money (i.e., its purchasing power), wages in almost all trades are quite as high in England as in Canada, and that the proportion of distress to the population in both countries is about the same. Press writers who base their remarks upon the tainted trade reports which come to this country, and whose experience of English or American politics and character is confined to studies of the mixed classes which emigrate to Canadian towns, have much to learn and are continually apt to blunder. The shoemaker should not go beyond his last.