

Educational Reports.

Superintendent Dr. A. H. MacKay's report of the schools of Nova Scotia for the year ending 31st July, 1907, is interesting reading. The number of schools open in the province was 2,465, the largest in its history. Coupled with this gratifying announcement is another, quoted from the report of the United States Commissioner of Education, to the effect that Nova Scotia shows the largest attendance at school, for the population, of any country in the world.

The number of teachers employed for the year was 2,616. Of these, less than half, 1,033, were normal trained, a serious defect in the educational work of the province. The majority of the 481 new teachers who entered the service last year were untrained, and about one-fourth of the teachers, 688, had an experience of one year only, or less. During the year male teachers decreased by 12 and female teachers increased by 60. The proportion of the former to the latter is now 354 to 2,272. The average salaries increased during the year, the most marked increase being for B and C male teachers. There was a slight falling off in the salaries of class A and D female.

The total annual enrolment of pupils was 100,007 and the daily average attendance 57,173, both of which show a slight decrease from the figures of the previous year. The total expenditure for public education was \$1,040,804.94.

Retiring annuities to teachers of sixty years of age, who have served thirty or thirty-five years, have come into operation. These range from \$60 to \$150, according to class. These amounts may be supplemented by local additions. The city of Halifax is the first to organize a local supplement, and raises sufficient to produce a maximum annuity of \$600 for the highest class.

The amount expended for each pupil in average attendance is \$17.64 in Nova Scotia; \$24.97 in Ontario; \$47.40 in New York State; \$6.51 in South Carolina.

The reports of the normal school and from the different inspectors and from the supervisor of Halifax city schools are interesting and instructive reading. Dr. MacKay deals with the various phases of education which came under his notice during a recent visit to Great Britain and the Continent of Europe, in particular with technical schools and colleges. The comparisons instituted

and the lessons drawn from his visit have been carefully elaborated by Dr. MacKay, and furnish suggestive data.

Chief Superintendent Dr. Anderson's report of education in Prince Edward Island for the year ending 30th September, 1907, shows the number of schools open 479, an increase of one over the preceding year. The number of teachers employed was 572, one less than the previous year. The number of pupils enrolled was 19,036, and the percentage of attendance 60.63. The total expenditure for public education during the year was \$170,326.62, and the expenditure for each pupil in average attendance \$14.24. Of this amount, \$10.30 was paid by government.

Dr. Anderson deplors the low salaries paid to teachers, and concludes that "the teacher is the only salaried individual that the ordinary economic laws do not seem to touch."

From a careful survey of the work during the year, Dr. Anderson is warranted in saying that sound progress has been made; the discipline in schools is excellent, and the results in most of the branches studied show careful and effective teaching.

The report of the Superintendent of Education for Quebec, M. Boucher de la Bruère, is a document of over 500 pages, containing an exhaustive resumé of the conditions of education in that province. The year 1906-07 was a year of fiftieth anniversaries in Quebec, witnessing the semi-centennial of the foundation of the Laval, McGill and Jacques Cartier normal schools, and the close of the honourable career of Dr. S. P. Robins, who finished fifty years of educational work in connection with McGill normal school from its opening in 1857.

The lack of male teachers in Quebec is felt there, as in other provinces, to be a serious obstacle in the education of boys over twelve years of age.

The report of the sixth annual meeting of the Dominion Educational Association, held in Toronto, July, 1907, contains minutes of proceedings and the papers and addresses and abstracts of papers given. The total membership was 326, made up as follows: British Columbia, 18; Alberta, 64; Saskatchewan, 44; Manitoba, 113; Ontario, 62; Quebec, 3; New Brunswick, 12; Nova Scotia, 10.