

in the number of teachers for these terms was 41 and 81 respectively, and of the pupils 2,521 and 1,542. The proportion of the population at school was 1 in 5.34. The percentage of the pupils daily present was for the first term 62.53, and for the second 69.23—the highest in the history of the province. The increase in attendance was greater in the country than in the cities and towns. A small increase in the number of male teachers is noted, though not sufficiently marked to cause hopefulness.

The total number of teachers employed for the first term was 1,944, of whom 250 were males and 1,694 females, and for the second term 1,942; the ratio of males and females being 251 to 1,691, or 1 to about 6.7. The west country still attracts many of our best teachers, and as a consequence the supply in this province is not quite equal to the demand. More local licenses have been granted than is desirable, especially in the French-speaking districts. Better salaries must be paid to attract good teachers, and some districts, notably the City of St. John, are setting an example worthy of imitation by raising the salaries of teachers. "Ratepayers," says Mr. Carter, "are quite willing to pay more for luxuries and modern improvements of all kinds, but are very reluctant to have their tax bills increased, forgetting that education lies at the root of all progress."

The reports of Principal Bridges of the Normal School, of Inspectors and Trustees, of the Director of Manual Training, Mr. T. B. Kidner, of Dr. Hamilton, Supervisor of School Gardens, are all interesting reading, from which extracts might profitably be made if space allowed. The report is adorned with pictures of new school buildings and of manual training and domestic science rooms.

Reports to the Inspectors state that Arbor Day, 1909, was observed by 531 schools; 1387 trees and 504 shrubs were planted on school grounds; 659 flower beds made; and a general clearing up and improvement of the buildings and premises effected.

### The Schools of British Columbia.

The report of the Superintendent of Education for British Columbia for the year ending June 30, 1909, shows a percentage of attendance of 69.97, the highest in the history of the public schools of that province. It will be seen that New Brunswick and British Columbia are close competitors in this

respect. A competition between east and west for future years might stimulate teachers and scholars to secure better results in school attendance.

The total enrolment in all the colleges and schools of the Pacific province was 36,227, an increase of 2,913 over that of the previous year. The number of boys was 18,659, of girls 17,568. The grand total days' attendance made by all the pupils enrolled was 4,960,653, an increase of 448,350. The average actual daily attendance was 25,350, an increase of 2,115, and the percentage of attendance as stated above. The enrolment in the branches of McGill University, established at Vancouver and Victoria, was 129,—77 boys and 52 girls. The enrolment in the high school for the year was 1809,—812 boys and 997 girls.

The report is clearly printed on fine tinted paper, and in typographical appearance is superior to what we are accustomed to see in the "blue books" of the Atlantic provinces.

### Usage in School Flags.

The Board of Education of New Brunswick has approved and published a general plan for the use and salutation of the flag in New Brunswick Schools. The flag is to be raised on special occasions; which implies that whenever it flies the pupils will know the special reason for displaying it. By following this plan, the raising of the school flag will always be a matter of interest, not only to the pupils, but to others; and anniversaries that might otherwise be overlooked will thus be noticed. A boy should learn to show proper respect to the national flag at all times, and not only when called upon to salute it on the school grounds. For instance, he might be taught that when it is carried past him in parade he should halt or rise, and, unless in military uniform, should stand with head uncovered while it goes by. Every boy should know, too, that it shows a want of due respect to raise the flag before sunrise, or to leave it flying after sunset; and that when it is to be placed at half-mast, it should be raised to the top of the staff and then lowered to place, and raised again to the top of the mast before it is lowered for the night. And he should certainly be told that it is an insult to any flag to place another flag above it on the same staff.

J. V.