

Education in New Brunswick.

The annual report of the Chief Superintendent of Education for New Brunswick is at hand, and is of much interest. It shows an increase in the number of teachers and pupils in attendance, improved regularity of attendance, increase of the period of service of teachers of the higher classes, a largely increased attendance at the normal school, increased intellectual activity on the part of teachers and pupils as indicated by the departmental examinations, marked improvement in the quality and equipment of school buildings, and in the number of school libraries. The "slow process of general enlightenment" is awaited to get rid of some of the obstructions in the path of progress, chief among which are the apathy, ignorance and selfishness of trustees and rate-payers in many districts.

The percentage of the population of the province enrolled in the public schools is 21.69; and the average attendance, for full year, of pupils enrolled is 59.27. These figures compare favorably with the statistics of the other provinces of the dominion, as well as with those of the United States.

Of the cities and incorporated towns the percentage of attendance is, with one exception, considerably higher than in former years. Milltown heads the list with an average attendance of 82.66 per cent of the enrolment for the first term, and of 90.61 per cent for the second term of 1894. Of counties, St. John shows the highest average of attendance, being for the year 75.39 per cent.

One point of special interest noted by Dr. Inch is the increase in the number of trained teachers and the decrease in the number of teachers employed under special license; but he deplores the fact that there is a slight decrease in the salaries of teachers, and refers to the increasing number of those seeking admission to the teaching profession as one cause, and adds that this cause

"Can be easily counteracted by a judicious narrowing, as circumstances may warrant, of the entrance door to the profession. A sufficient supply of *trained* teachers must be provided; when it becomes apparent that more are licensed than the demand calls for, it will be expedient to sift even more rigidly than heretofore the candidates who apply. For any considerable and permanent increase in the salaries we must, however, look to the dissemination of enlightened and liberal views among the rate-payers of the wealthier districts, to the increased efficiency of the teachers, and to a general increase of prosperity throughout the province."

The total expenditure during the year for the grammar, superior and common schools (not including district assessments for school buildings, apparatus, fuel, etc.,) is approximately as follows:

Provincial Grants,	\$150,882 20
Schoolhouse Grants,	885 00
County Fund,	92,281 43
District Assessment (approximate)..	183,166 34
Total,	\$427,214 97
Average cost per pupil, \$6.13.	

While the total number of teachers has been increased since 1891 by 112, the increase of first-class teachers has been 86.

The reports of the inspectors, while revealing many difficulties yet to be overcome before an ideal condition of common school education can be reached, are encouraging in tone.

Inspector Mersereau says:

In many respects the year just closed has been the most satisfactory one of my official life. None other than trained teachers have been employed. Ratepayers have been more generous in voting supplies. Trustees have exercised greater discrimination in employing the best talent available for the money at their command. Parents have shown an increased interest in their children's progress. District difficulties have yielded more readily to reason and common sense. Teachers have exceeded their former efforts to "magnify their office."

Inspector Smith says:

On looking over my district as a whole, I can point to many evidences of improvement and advancement in educational work.

Inspector Steeves says:

In many schools the quality of instruction imparted is, in most subjects, excellent. The work exhibited shows that the pupils have arrived at stated conclusions by intelligent processes, that they have been trained to use their powers of observation and to reason from the knowledge thus obtained.

Inspector Carter says:

I have to report many improvements generally during the year. The school-houses in my district are almost invariably comfortable, well furnished and fairly well supplied with apparatus. Trustees are generally very careless about their out-buildings. There is, of course, constant wear and tear in buildings and appliances. This, I think, is more than made good each year. I have taken occasion in former reports to mention the fact that nearly all the school-houses are painted, not only externally, but internally, and many houses are very attractive in appearance. There has been no falling off in the work in this direction. In addition to this, many school flags have been procured during the year. Some new school libraries have been provided, and many additions to existing ones have been made.

In no year since I have held office has there been a better opportunity for children to attend school than during the past. I do not recall any organized district in my territory but what has had a school in operation during some part of the year.