

fold ratio to the demand, yet the education of the masses must retrograde as it is doing at present, because the position of the teacher is not permanent, and the bulk of the schools is in the hands of inferior teachers. These statements can be sustained by statistics.

According to the Annual Report of the Minister of Education, for the year 1878, there were 4,990 public schools in Ontario, taught by 6,478 teachers, of whom there were 3,360 male teachers, and 3,418 female teachers, making nearly 400 more of the latter than the former. These 6,478 teachers had under their tuition 489,015 pupils of all ages, of whom 151,474 were in the First book, 111,360 in the Second book, and 132,144 in the Third book, making altogether 394,878, or 81 per cent. of the gross attendance of all the pupils in Ontario in the three first elementary books, and only 19 per cent. in the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth books. And again, of this gross attendance 31 per cent. were in the 1st book, 23 per cent. in the 2nd book, 27 per cent. in the 3rd book, 15 per cent. in the 4th book, a little over 3 4-5 per cent. in the 5th book, and 1-5 of 1 per cent. in the 6th book. In the same year there were 103 High Schools in full operation, taught by 298 teachers, who had under their tuition, 10,486 pupils, of whom 883 only studied Greek, 4,729 Latin, 516 German, and 3,588 French. We are not told how many in French were also studying Latin, but we may justly conclude that the 4,729 in Latin would include the Greek pupils and many of the French pupils also; leaving 50 per cent. of all the High School pupils that might still be taught in the 4th, 5th, and 6th classes of the Public Schools, even should we include those preparing for 3rd and 2nd class certificates. We have, therefore, established the fact that the state of the

education of the High and Public Schools of Ontario, so far as the great mass of the pupils are concerned, is in a low condition.

We said that there were 6,478 teachers in the Public Schools, and 298 in the High Schools, making a total of 6,776 teachers, with a grand total of pupils, under their care of 499,501. Since 1871, the grand era of the revolutionary school-law, up to the end of 1878, there were 33,250 who obtained certificates to teach. In 1879, 1,207 persons obtained certificates, giving a total of 34,457; if we add to this number the graduates of the universities, 1,445, it will bring the sum total to 36,000 persons made eligible as teachers within the period of eight years. This number does not take in the teachers now employed in the High and Public schools, and and who are not included in this vast array, making a grand total of 37,000 persons who are eligible to teach. It will be recollected that there are only 6,776 positions for them to fill; demonstrating our statement, although astounding, to be in reality even below the mark.

We have now established two facts: 1st, sufficient teachers have been created in eight years so as to be at least five times more than are requisite. 2nd, the great bulk of the school-going population is very low in point of education. Our third statement is equally provable. That is, that the great bulk of our Public Schools is in the hands of young and inexperienced teachers.

Let us again turn to the Minister's last Report. We there find that of the 6,478 teachers employed in 1878, in our Public Schools, 220 only had 1st class Provincial certificates; 1,409 2nd class; 328 County Board 1st class certificates; 142 2nd class County Board; whilst there were 3,904 who had only new County Board 3rd class; and 480 who had not even that