

Superintendent's Report of Schools, Nova Scotia, '58.

The Superintendent's Report of the District and Grammar Schools of this Province, has been received. It presents a business-like appearance; and is shorn of much of that verbosity, common to educational reports; it comes at once to the substance of the subject—the state of elementary education in Nova Scotia. "The tabular part is," says the Report, "a mere approximation to the truth," in consequence of the want of a "staff of paid agents." "These tables * * show some improvement on those of last year. The number of schools, and of course, of teachers, is considerably increased. The difference between the number of schools taught in summer and winter, is diminished. Though the public money expended is somewhat smaller than last year, the amount raised by the people is larger, by a few hundreds. The apparatus and equipments, as well as the whole character of the education imparted, both in the Common and Grammar Schools, seem, as far as can be ascertained from these tables, decidedly on the advance."

The increased legislative appropriation of 1857, caused an increase in school attendance of over 5,000 pupils throughout the Province; and when this extra appropriation was withdrawn in the summer of 1858, there was a de-

crease in the number of school-going pupils, of 5,657.

"One of the greatest improvements," says the report, "in the way of progressive advancement in the cause of education, in this Province is the temporary duration of the great majority of our schools. The irregularity of the scholar is a serious obstacle in the way of progress, but the closing of the school altogether for months consecutively, if not for a year or more, is still worse."

The Normal School is doing much good in the qualifications of teachers; there are "upwards of one hundred Normal trained teachers engaged in discharging the duties of their vocation, through the length and breadth of the Province."

The sum of £600 has been expended in the purchase of school books, which have been divided among the different School Boards as circumstances required.

The following comparative abstract will show the advances made, which notwithstanding the marked commercial depression of 1858, are on the whole, very satisfactory, and reflect credit on the Superintendent, the different agencies employed, and the Province at large.—

	1857.	1858.
Number of Schools, (average,)	976	1054
Number of pupils, "	34,356	34,742
Support from District, - - -	£32,053	£32,418
" " Province, - - -	13,379	13,329
Number of Schools teaching classics, -	13	55
" " geography and grammar, -	273	678
Number of globes, - - -	56	85
" " maps, - - -	2521	2354
" " blackboards, - - -	640	641
Library books, (average,)	6028	6127
School Books, "	5476	5264
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GRAMMAR SCHOOLS,—	1857.	1858.
Number of Schools, - - -	47	51
Number of Pupils, - - -	1607	2079
Support from District, - - -	£2,453	£3,038
" " Province, - - -	818	362
Number of globes, - - -	18	39
" " maps, - - -	217	340
" " black boards, - - -	64	70

The subjects taught in these schools are:—Classics, Mathematics, Latin, French, and Chemistry.

The Provincial appropriation to the Grammar Schools is very small—not allowing twenty pounds as an average