

—The report of the Chief Superintendent for 1871, just issued, presents some very encouraging features in regard to the progress of education in our Province during the last year. The amount contributed from all sources for school purposes was \$2,224,471, or an increase of \$180,106 over 1869. The increase of last decade foots up the very agreeable total of \$743,192, or nearly three-quarters of a million. The expenditure on school sites and buildings amounted to \$261,833. The number of school age in the Province is given at 489,615, of whom 446,326 were attending school. The number reported as not attending any school is 38,535, being an increase of 7,270 over the preceding year. Why this state of affairs should exist we know not. We believe there is ample accommodation for all the children of school age in the Province, and there can be no valid reason for such a large number absenting themselves from our Public Schools. Indeed, it is the duty of all lovers of morality and good order to INSIST upon the compulsory clause of the School Act being enforced to prevent the disastrous results to the well being of society which must arise from the propagation of such vicious habits as are inseparably connected with ignorance and illiteracy. The progress of the schools, as shown by the studies pursued, is gratifying in many respects. We are particularly well pleased to see the increase in Arithmetic, Grammar and Canadian Geography. The latter subject, as well as Canadian History, has been too long neglected. The increase in such subjects as Algebra, Geometry, Mensuration, Bookkeeping, and Vocal Music, is also gratifying. We see no reason why the latter subject should not be universally taught, and we would like to see it made imperative upon teachers to prepare themselves for teaching this very important branch of education. We further find that 107,198 pupils are taught military drill. In regard to the teachers employed, we find that there is a decrease in the number of male teachers and an increase in the number of female teachers. This, no doubt, arises from the fact that the salaries are not sufficiently remunerative in the case of males, whereas, in the case of females, salaries are somewhat higher than can be procured in any other avo-

cation. The number of female teachers now exceed the number of males—the former being 2,641, the latter 2,665. The number of trained teachers employed is far below what we hope to see in the course of a few years—only 327 being reported as holding first-class Provincial certificates, and 517 second-class. No doubt many of those holding county certificates received more or less training in our Normal School, but judging by the number of Provincial certificates as quoted above, there is ample room for very material improvement in this direction. The average salary of male teachers in counties was \$254; of female teachers, \$182; in cities, of male teachers, \$629; of female teachers, \$236; in towns, of male teachers, \$483; of female teachers, \$225; in incorporated villages, of male teachers, \$419; of female teachers, \$186. The only inference deducible from the very low salaries paid to teachers in counties is that so long as it exists the efficiency of the schools must be sadly affected and the education of pupils very much neglected. In table K, of the Report, there is a very valuable abstract of the number of students that attended the Normal School since it was opened, and the counties from which they came. We find the total number who passed through the Normal School, (of course including, but not separately pointing out those who attended several sessions) to be 6,418. The number of certificates awarded was 3,266. No doubt many of those certificates expired, but yet is it somewhat strange that only 844 teachers were employed in 1871 with Provincial license. What has become of the rest? Have they left the profession? And why? These are questions well worthy of consideration. Another remarkable fact revealed by this table is that out of 6,418 who entered the Normal School, 1,907, or nearly one-third, was from the County of York, while from the more distant counties, such as Essex, there were only 13, Lambton 68, Bruce 51, Glengary 40, Russell 18, and Renfrew 20. This is certainly strong evidence in favor of additional Normal Schools. We purpose to refer to this Report and make some further extracts in a future issue. It contains much that is valuable and will amply repay a careful perusal.