

Extracts from the School Inspectors' Reports.

Extracts from Mr. TANGUAY's Reports.

COUNTIES OF RIMOUSKI, KAMOURASKA, AND TEMISCOUATA.

(Concluded.)

Ste. Flavie.—This municipality supports five schools under control, attended by 239 pupils, with an average of 171. Two new schools have been established in this parish, in localities too remote from the schools already existing. In three sections the schools are satisfactory; in two others, they are middling. The apathy, amounting even to opposition, referred to with pain in my previous reports, is gradually disappearing; but it still prevails in certain portions of the parish. Good sense and justice will soon triumph. Lack of assiduity, and want of books, paper, &c., are the two great obstacles to the progress of this parish. The accounts of the secretary-treasurer are well-kept.

Métis.—This municipality has had three schools in operation during six months and a half, and two only during the remainder of the school year. These schools are attended by 64 pupils, with an average of 44 only. One of these schools is very well kept; another is but passable; and the third has produced no good result. This municipality, being remote from the centre where the services of English Protestant teachers are to be secured, and being too poor to pay an adequate salary, the people are compelled to employ teachers without diplomas. I regret to state that education makes but little progress in this municipality, and that all or nearly all the parents exhibit a painful degree of indifference. The corporation, nevertheless, are animated with a good spirit, and are making laudable efforts to bring about a better state of things. The organization of the schools is tolerably good, and the accounts are kept by a competent person.

St. Octave de Métis.—This municipality has five schools in operation. Four of these schools are kept by school-mistresses, exceedingly competent in every respect. These schools are attended by 202 pupils, the average being 135. In three of the sections, good progress has been made; in the two others, the success has been middling. A school-mistress was obliged to retire in consequence of the little success she had obtained.

The impossibility of locating the schools of a new settlement so as to suit the convenience of all the rate-payers, where a small population is scattered over a large space, is keenly felt here, and has caused serious embarrassments to the corporation. No matter how the schools are arranged, there is always a party of malcontents, who cry out and murmur, and intrigue secretly or openly against the school, or more frequently still, against the teacher. The children are thereupon taken away from the school. If you remove the school in order to please the dissatisfied party, the contents become dissatisfied in their turn and do what they themselves blamed in the others. How many schools produced no good result, owing to these wretched and inevitable divisions. But, how is the evil to be remedied? Apart from the discord prevailing in one of the sections, and which often prevails in new settlements, I am pretty well satisfied with the working of the law in St. Octave, and the progress made there within the past few years. Order and harmony are now almost completely re-established, and the corporation has been enabled to build a third schoolhouse without levying any special tax. The salaries of the school-mistresses are far higher than in many older and wealthier parishes.

Notre-Dame de l'Assomption.—This municipality has three schools, with 132 pupils, and a daily attendance of 90. I have nothing but words of praise to say of this municipality. It exhibits the greatest zeal for the advancement of education.

St. Ulric de la Rivière Blanche.—One hundred and eighteen pupils attend the two schools of this municipality, the daily average being 60. One of these schools is very well conducted; the other tolerably well. The results of the past year afford complete satisfaction. The corporation have been enabled to build a schoolhouse in each of the sections. The accounts are kept with great regularity.

Matane.—The five schools in Matane are attended by 265 pupils, with an average of 191. Two of these schools have given a very satisfactory result. They are conducted by Mr. J. L. J. C. Fiset, and Miss Leopoldine Marquis. The other three have also done well. On the whole, there is every reason to be satisfied with the results of the year. I regret to say that motives, little worthy of praise, and in some instances the caprice of the members of the corporation, have, in more than one instance, imperilled the interests of education more particularly in reference to certain projects to which your attention has already been called. The collection of the rates is in arrears; but the accounts are regularly kept. On the whole, education has pro-

gressed beyond my expectations, and I attribute the whole credit of this to the powerful and effectual organizations which have existed for some years, and to the well known devotedness of many of the teachers.

To sum up, there are in the district under my inspection:

175 primary schools	attended by	7109 pupils.
11 primary superior schools for boys	do	773 do
3 do	do girls	173 do
2 colleges	do	365 do
7 convents teaching	do	620 do
2 independents	do	57 do

Total..... 9097 do

The average school attendance, each class day, has been 6,075, or two-thirds of the number of pupils entered on the school journals.

There are 30 municipalities in which the law works in a satisfactory and effectual manner.

There are 100 schools which may be considered as good: 60 inferior, but not without merit; and there are forty badly kept, and producing no satisfactory results.

The two great obstacles to the advancement of education in the district under my inspection, are the want of assiduity in attending school, on the part of the pupils, and the want of books, paper, etc. The insufficiency of the salaries, which discourages a great many teachers well qualified for the task of instruction and induces them to seek other and more remunerative employment, is also an obstacle which it is necessary to remove.

Extracts from Mr. MARTIN's Reports.

1863.

COUNTY OF CHICOUTIMI.

Chicoutimi.—Education was making rapid progress in this parish. The three Schools opened during the last six months were well kept, the local school authorities displaying much zeal.

Village of Chicoutimi.—Education was as actively promoted in this village as in the parish. The convent which had been build recently, would open its school in September.

Grande Baie.—There were three good schools in Grande Baie. The village school was perhaps overcrowded, but it was hoped that this evil would soon be remedied.

St. Alphonse Village.—The school, which had been separated from the municipality of St. Alphonse, was well conducted. A model school would be opened the following year.

St. Alphonse (Parish).—The commissioners made great efforts, but were unable to procure persons holding diplomas to take charge of the schools (six in number) of the municipality, and they were obliged to hire two uncertificated teachers. The Inspector tolerated this infraction, without, however, authorising it in a direct manner.

Laterrière.—This municipality possessed three well kept schools, an effort had been made to open a fourth school but it had failed.

St. Joseph.—Two good schools here. Through the apathy of the inhabitants of a third district their school could not prosper.

Harvey.—The commissioners could not procure teachers holding diplomas. Only one school was in operation in 1863. A school-house was built, but it remained closed.

Anse St. Jean.—There was a properly conducted school in this municipality.

Hebertville.—This municipality had three good schools and showed much zeal.

Ouatchonan.—Two well managed schools were in operation in this municipality; a third was to be opened shortly.

1864.

COUNTY OF CHICOUTIMI.

In presenting my report for the past six months, I am happy to state that, generally speaking, the schools in my district have been conducted with more zeal and attention than heretofore. The commissioners and teachers have done their duty with correctness, and their anxiety for success has been nobly rewarded in many places. These happy results induce me to look for fresh and still greater success in the year now commencing.

I must admit, however, that I entertain serious apprehensions for the future prospects of the parishes surrounding Lake St. John. During the past summer, the settlers suffered a total loss of their crops in a general conflagration. Suffering is already severely felt in the locality, and the appearance of the crops is anything but reassuring.