

and see that they are conducted in accordance with the regulations, and report annually to the superintendent. School attendance is compulsory for all children between the ages of 6 and 12 years for six months in each year, unless they are under private instruction. Teachers must be provided with a Government certificate, of which there are six grades. The lowest is valid for one year, the next higher for two, and so on to the fifth; this and the sixth grade certificates are valid for life or during good behavior.

Graduates of arts of recognized British or Canadian universities are exempt from examinations on the art of teaching, school discipline and management, and the school law.

The strictly nonsectarian character of the schools is indicated by the following provisions of the law:

No religious creed is allowed to be taught; the Lord's Prayer may be used at the opening and closing of the schools. No clergyman is eligible as superintendent, inspector, or master.

The schools are supported entirely by appropriations from the public treasury.

THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

The report of the superintendent of education in the northwest territories of Canada presents an interesting view of the efforts for popular enlightenment in the northern part of our continent.

The territory under supervision covers an area of 302,000 square miles, with a population in 1891 of 66,799.

While the people are chiefly of British origin, other nationalities are represented in sufficient numbers to increase the school difficulties. The occupations are farming, ranching, lumbering, and mining, and the population widely scattered as a consequence. Nevertheless the report gives evidence of advanced ideas with reference to the conditions for effective schools. The system of public schools is under the control of a council of public instruction, comprising four members of the executive committee and four appointed members, of whom two must be Protestants and two Roman Catholics. The appointed members have no vote, their duties being purely advisory. A school district must not exceed in area 25 square miles, and must contain not less than four resident taxpayers (property tax) and at least twelve children of school age. Each district elects school trustees, who manage the local school affairs.

Provision is made for separate schools for religious minorities (Protestant or Roman Catholic), the ratepayers establishing these separate schools being relieved of taxes for the public schools. The decade 1886 to 1896 witnessed a remarkable growth in the schools. The number rose from 76 to 366, an increase of 381 per cent, and the enrollment from 2,553 to 12,796, an increase of 400 per cent.

At the latter date 433 teachers were employed. Efforts were early made to secure professional training for teachers, and by a regulation