

education act of 1870 it is recognized for the purposes of State aid as a public elementary school.

There are 14,294 voluntary schools.

There are 5,857 board schools.

The voluntary schools are mainly, but not entirely, composed of Church of England schools. They are divisible as follows:

Church of England schools	11,731
Roman Catholic	1,053
"British" and miscellaneous	1,052
Wesleyan	458

In the voluntary schools there are, in round numbers, 3,200,000 children.

In the board school there are, in round numbers, 2,600,000 children.

The "Conscience Clause" of the 1870 act makes it compulsory on every school which seeks to obtain a grant for efficiency from the State as a public elementary school to refrain from requiring the children to attend church or chapel; and it further requires that any time assigned for religious teaching must be clearly marked off and separate from the time assigned to secular education.

This clause in the case of the board schools was overridden by the "Cowper-Temple" clause, which runs thus:

"No religious catechism or religious formulary which is distinctive of any particular denomination shall be taught in the school."

The annual average cost of the maintenance of the schools, if reckoned per child, is:

	Per head.
In board schools to	£2 17s. 7 1-2d.
In voluntary schools	£2 6s. 4 1-2d.

The annual State grant won by the efficiency of these schools (the minimum of efficiency being secured

by the inspection and examination of the children under various regulations and codes) amounts:

	Per head.
In board schools to	£1 11s. 1 3-4d.
In voluntary schools to	£1 10s. 6 1-4d.

The attendance of the children's averages:

	Per cent.
In board schools	82.8
In voluntary schools	81.6

The finance of all elementary schools, whether board or voluntary, may be briefly summarized by saying that the financial support they receive is of two kinds:

(1) Central financial support.

(2) Local financial support.

The central support is made up of the efficiency grants from the exchequer, which are paid principally out of indirect taxation, upon the report of the government inspector.

But the central support is, as will be seen from the figures we have quoted, not sufficient by itself. It has to be supplemented by local support.

In the case of board schools this local support is under the heading of the school board rate compulsorily provided by the ratepayers.

In the case of the voluntary school the deficiency in revenue is voluntarily provided by those benevolent persons who are in sympathy with the objects of those schools.

The first object of the education bill of 1902 is to abolish everywhere, save in London, all existing authorities for elementary and technical education, and to establish one local authority for the education of the nation.