

pupils); 10 academies for girls under the direction of Religious Communities having in the aggregate 1702 pupils, making a grand total of 8018 pupils attending all the various institutions for education.

Of this number 4560 read fluently, 3268 read very well, 5123 can write, 4687 have begun to learn arithmetic, 1152 understand it as far as the compound rules inclusively, 255 are learning book-keeping, 2628 geography, 3865 history, 3113 French grammar. Of the number 888 learn parsing and logic, 159 learn exercises in literary composition, 121 learn linear drawing, 21 mensuration, and 189 instrumental music. There are in my Inspectorship 25 male and 83 female teachers, having diplomas, and 3 without them. There are 8 libraries containing 11650 volumes. This number is probably below the truth, as I could not obtain full information. The salaries of the male teachers are from £50 to £90 currency; those of the female teachers from £30 to £50. Besides these, allowances are paid to the professors of the different religious institutions founded in the most important villages of this district. These institutions receive from the municipalities from £80 to £150, according to the number of persons who officiate as teachers in each.

Generally speaking, this year, the municipalities in this district have availed themselves of the right granted them by the last law on education to raise local assessments; they have levied by assessments on real property by monthly taxes and in other ways, the sum of £4998; this sum is considerable if we compare it with our share of the annual grant to the common schools which only amounts to £2178.

I am happy to say that for some time the Law of Education has been well carried out, and that it works perfectly in this District. It is true there are some parishes where the monthly tax is not levied, but generally speaking this is not caused by any unwillingness, but only because they prefer raising more by assessments on real estate.

It may perhaps, be remarked that the total number of pupils has not undergone any great increase, but it would be well to observe that this District is composed of old parishes in which the population increases slowly and that already, in preceding years, the number of pupils presented as high a proportion to the sum total of the population as could be desired. The statistics of each branch of study will prove a remarkable improvement in the most important branches.

Generally, the School Commissioners in the District have made praiseworthy efforts both to build new school houses and to repair old ones, and furnish them with maps, books, tables and all requisite apparatus. Some of them, nevertheless, deserve censure for their apathy, and if I do not name them for the present, it is only in the hope that they will in the present year bestow more attention on the performance of the important duties entrusted to them.

Finally, the progress made in this District within the last few years is made more evident by the fact that, except three, all the schools are confided to religious communities, or to teachers, male and female, provided with diplomas, and that the latter almost without exception shew themselves worthy of the testimonials which they have obtained. Especially I find difficulty in expressing all the good produced by the convents in which teaching is carried on, and in describing the order, neatness, discipline, and other excellent arrangements of the domestic economy of these houses. I shall pronounce the eulogium of no particular parish; but I am bound to notice the progress made at St. Aimé, and the generosity of both the Seigneur and the Curé of that parish. Mr. Massue, the former, has just made a donation of a farm near the village for the purpose of founding an academy for boys, and the latter gentleman, Mr. Lecours intends to build on it, at his own cost, a house for the Brethren of the Order of St. Joseph. These facts are above all praise, but they are by no means a novelty in the place; the generosity of these two zealous friends of education having previously built the excellent academy for girls lately opened in the parish.

I have distributed the books which you sent me to be given away as rewards. It is not easy to repress the jealousy of some of the pupils on such occasions, but I have good results from such gifts in several instances. Particularly they have served to stimulate the zeal of both teachers and pupils in the cultivation of certain branches formerly but little attended to. In one school where the writing was not so good as it should have been, I refused to confer any prize, and on a subsequent visit found great improvement in the copy books.

Extract from a Report of Mr. Inspector BELAND.

At the point to which the working of the Law of public instruc-

tion has now attained, we have only to aim at perfecting its satisfactory results. If the districts of inspection were less extensive, we could assuredly advance more rapidly in this work of improvement. We trust that the Legislature and the Executive will listen to our suggestions so far as not to insist on the performance of a duty, physically impossible to be executed.

In the present year, I have in my District a rather smaller number of elementary, but on the other hand, many more superior primary schools. The certainty now generally felt, that the employment of either male or female teachers unprovided with diplomas will not be tolerated by the Department has been a means of producing this reduction in the number of schools, those kept by incompetent teachers having in some parishes been closed. On the other hand, each parish endeavours to secure the services of at least one model school teacher who holds a diploma. May the same disposition be shown everywhere; we shall then see every Municipality furnishing its contingent of educated persons to society.

There are in this District 30 Municipalities, 269 sections, 93 school-houses belonging to the Commissioners, an increase of 7 over last year; 206 elementary schools, attended by 10270 scholars, an increase of 382; 58 model schools, an increase of 2; number of pupils 335, increase 120; 2 academies for boys with 40 pupils; 2 industrial colleges with 430 pupils, increase 160; 4 academies for girls or convent schools with 560 pupils, increase 95; 1 superior primary school for girls with 30 pupils; grand total of institutions 221, of scholars 11650, increase in the latter 532.

The following small table will shew the improvement in each of the principal branches of education.

| YEAR. | Pupils reading well. | Pupils writing. | Simple Arithmetic. | Compound Arithmetic. | Book-keeping. | Geography. | Eng. Grammar. | French Grammar. | Parsing. | Epistolary com. | History. |
|------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------|------------|---------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| 1858..... | 5124 | 7648 | 5490 | 2443 | 240 | 3450 | 795 | 5960 | 3585 | 830 | 4945 |
| 1857..... | 5035 | 4514 | 4334 | 2398 | 225 | 3300 | 666 | 5560 | 2610 | 723 | |
| Increase.. | 89 | 3134 | 1056 | 45 | 15 | 150 | 129 | 400 | 775 | 107 | |

Linear drawing is taught to 85 pupils; mensuration to 80; instrumental music to 100. 11 male teachers hold diplomas, 13 have none. 150 female teachers have diplomas, and an equal number are without them. The average amount of salaries paid to male teachers is from £45 to £75. These are far from sufficient, and I trust that both the Legislature and the Municipalities will make an effort to remedy the evil. The amount levied in my District is £3824, the education of each child therefore costs in all the municipalities, one dollar and a-half. Although the assessments have been greatly increased, and appear to some hard to pay, it is plain that the expense of educating their children is still very trifling.

The petty salaries paid to teachers can now no longer be excused on the plea of their incapacity. In spite of the obstacles which might well deter them, many well educated young persons persevere with praiseworthy devotion in the labor of teaching. The Normal schools have already supplied several for the work. In my District, there are three who teach with great success, and do great credit to the Laval Normal school in which they were trained.

It is to be regretted that we now see more than ever female teachers who are unqualified, but who have obtained diplomas, succeed in finding employment under the Commissioners at low salaries. In the parish of Lotbinière there are twelve or thirteen of such individuals employed; and as might be expected that parish has not a single qualified teacher within its bounds.

Notwithstanding all this, I may without exaggeration venture to assure you, that all the schools under my jurisdiction are conducted much better than in the past years. The visits paid to them are productive of great benefit, and this would be greater as I before said, if, the district under my charge being less extensive, I could make those visits more frequently. The distribution of the prizes by the Inspector does much good, and it is a pity that we cannot have more to give.