

is one of the chief duties of an executive officer. That it needs to be enforced not only do the figures which we have already quoted show, but there is the additional fact crying out for action, that 91,269 scholars between the ages of 7 and 13 years did not attend 110 days as the compulsory clauses of school law require. In commenting upon this Mr. Ross takes a most statesmanlike view of the matter; he says, "the tax payer who is rated without his consent for school purposes for the public good has a right to expect that those for whose education he is compelled to provide should be obliged to attend school, at least during the time required by the School Act." But to whom can the tax payer look to have the law carried out, but to the Minister of Education.

While the average attendance for the whole province was 48 per cent., that for cities was 62, for towns, 48, and for rural sections, 44 per cent. 38 per cent. of those attending were in the First Reader, 21 in the Second, 23 in the Third, 16 in the Fourth, and 2 in the Fifth. These figures, as compared with those of the previous year, shew an increase of 2 per cent. in the First Reader, a decrease of 2 and 1 in the Second and Third respectively, and an increase of 1 in the Fourth, while the percentage in the Fifth Reader remained the same, though in that book there was an actual decrease of 466 pupils. This decrease is to be accounted for by the efforts Mr. Ross has made to remove the Fifth Book classes from our public schools, and relegate them to the High Schools. Now, a boy or girl cannot be considered as fully prepared for the work of life without the training which a Fifth Book class affords. This training, therefore, properly belongs to Public Schools, whose very existence can be justified only by the education they give as a pre-

paration for citizenship. Besides, why should parents who do not wish their children to take a High School course be put to the inconvenience, and the country to the increased expense, of sending them to schools where the cost per pupil is \$52.36 per annum, when they can receive similar training in schools where the cost is only \$14.66?

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE.

Public Schools, receipts, \$3,594,969.77; expenditure, \$3,108,169.41; cost per pupil in average attendance, \$14.66. R. C. Separate Schools, \$218,096.81; \$204,530.77; \$13.41. High Schools, \$458,940.78; \$429,761.87; \$52.36.

That our readers might have a correct idea of what public education costs in Ontario we have grouped the items as above; and to be more accurate, we have separated the items of receipts and expenditure for Public and Separate Schools, which are given together in the Report, so that above we have an accurate statement in regard to each class of schools. As the statistics of the Separate Schools are given in tables by themselves, we see no reason why those of the Public Schools should not be kept apart. It is only thus that a correct report of each class of schools can be given. In proof of this, take the case of Berlin: the total receipts and expenditure for that town in the Public School statistics are \$11,257 and \$10,760 respectively, but these items include the receipts and expenditure for Separate Schools, and when these are deducted the net receipts and expenditure for Public Schools in that town are \$6,574 and \$6,573. The four towns immediately following Berlin in the list have no Separate Schools, and hence the comparison of their statistics with those of Berlin would be misleading. So many of the improvements that we have recom-