

STATISTICS OF PUBLIC AND SEPARATE
SCHOOLS FOR THE YEAR 1881.

The total receipts were \$3,259,238, showing a slight increase of \$4,409 over the total receipts of 1880. A little less than eight per cent. was contributed by the Government as a legislative grant, twenty per cent. came from the Clergy Reserves and other sources, and the remaining seventy-two per cent. was made up from rates levied on the people. The total expenditure was \$2,844,271, showing an increase of \$22,218 over 1880. The increase is in the outlay on school-houses. The payment for salaries, which was \$2,106,019 or seventy-four per cent. of the whole expenditure, shows a decrease of \$7,161, and there is a large decrease in the payments for maps, books, etc., which we suppose is mainly due to the closing of the Depository. The number of pupils attending the schools was 476,268, while the average attendance was 215,264; the trustees report 29,143 as not attending any school for four months of the year. As we remarked in our review of the previous year's report, the only meaning we can attach to this return is, that there are 29,143 children in the country who receive no education at all. The compiler of the report imagines, however, that it includes high school pupils, and pupils of private schools and other educational institutions, under the age of sixteen. But how can these be considered as not attending any school? Yet this is the view the compiler attributes to those who make the returns, and by deducting these classes, he brings down the number of children not attending any school to 5,810. We will suggest an easy way of avoiding this dilemma in future reports. Let an instruction be given on the forms for the annual reports that are sent to the various school corporations, that the number not attending any school added to the number between the ages of five and sixteen attending school must agree with the number on the return showing the school population between these ages. Our school system will not be complete until some organized plan is adopted to provide industrial training for this large number of children. There is, we

fear, little doubt that many of them swell the ranks of our criminal classes, and it requires no argument to show that it would be more advantageous to the country to make them wealth producers, by a training in some honest industry, than to allow them to sink into wealth consumers as criminals. Mr. W. H. Howland, of Toronto, has philanthropically made a movement for the establishment of an industrial school. We heartily commend his scheme to the members of our local Government, and assure them that any money spent in assisting that movement will produce results in every way more satisfactory than the large amount invested in such an institution, for instance, as the Mercer Reformatory.

The report still gives only the cost per pupil in registered attendance; thus the cost of a pupil who attends school but a few days in the year is given as equal to that of one who attends the whole session. The correct method is to give the cost per pupil in average attendance. In the following table we give both :—

Average cost per pupil.	In Registered Attendance.	In Average Attendance.
In Cities.....	\$8 12	\$14 18
" Towns	6 13	11 32
" Counties	5 69	13 40
" whole Province	5 92	13 21

It will be seen from the above that the cost is least in the towns, and greatest in the cities.

Percentage of Average Attendance :—

In Cities	58 per cent.
" Towns.....	54 " "
" Counties.....	42 " "
" the Province.....	45 " "

Hamilton again stands first among the cities, with an average of sixty-three per cent; and London last, with forty-eight per cent.

Of the towns, Harriston is a long way ahead, with eighty-seven per cent., but as remarked in a footnote in the report, this is doubtful. Listowel comes next, with sixty-eight. Bothwell and Sandwich are lowest, with forty-one per cent. each.

Among the counties, Haldimand this time divides the honours with Perth, in having the