

(7) We have simplified the machinery for forming, altering or dissolving union school sections.

(8) We have arranged for the gradual extinction of the superannuated teachers' fund.

(9) We have fixed more definitely than before the holidays for Public and High schools.

(10) We have simplified the curriculum of studies for the Public schools. The effect of this has been to reduce the number of classes in a Public school from 33 classes under the old regulations to 21 under the new. This will certainly give the teacher more time for the essential subjects. As over 90 per cent. of the pupils leave school before they reach 14 years of age, we owe it to them that the time of the teacher be not frittered away by a multiplicity of studies which can only be undertaken to the detriment of the majority.

And here I might perhaps answer a silly objection which I observed in a newspaper the other day, to the effect that I was opposed to the formation of fifth classes in the Public schools. The law prescribes five classes as the complete Public school course. Trustees have no option but to establish a fifth class if the interests of their schools so require. But as the first class in the High school is identical with the fifth class of the Public school, I have recommended trustees, both on the score of efficiency and economy, not to establish a fifth class in places possessing High school advantages. I have so much regard for the taxpayer that I do not propose to ask him to pay two men for doing the work of one, unless the trustees take the responsibility upon their own shoulders, and as High schools are usually better equipped than Public schools, I believe it is to the interest of the pupil to go on with his advanced work in the High school. Many other amendments of a minor character have been made affecting the duties of teachers, trustees, pupils and inspectors, but to dwell upon each would occupy more time than we have at our disposal. But the real, practical test of our legislation and management is the educational effect upon the country. The evidence of this can only be given by statistics, and I think they are conclusive. I have put them in tabular form for the sake of convenience. Taking the last year of Conservative rule as the starting point :—

	1871.	1884.
Number of children attending school.....	446,326	466,917
Number not attending any school.....	38,535	6,230
Average attendance.....	188,294	221,861
Number of schools open.....	4,598	5,316
Number of brick school-houses.....	898	1,879
Number of stone school-houses.....	425	511
Number of frame school-houses.....	1,928	2,323
Number of log school-houses.....	1,425	631
Total expenditure for Public schools since 1871.....		\$40,930,271
Total amount paid for sites and buildings since 1871.....		6,164,415
Total amount paid for maps, apparatus, etc., since 1871.....		491,027
Total amount paid for rents and repairs since 1871.....		5,274,700
Total receipts for all educational purposes since 1871.....		55,284,601
Total Government grants for all educational purposes since 1871.....		\$7,132,253