

County	1904	1913	Increased Grant
Victoria.....	2,375	10,587	\$ 8,212
Waterloo.....	2,679	8,847	6,169
Welland.....	1,881	6,349	4,468
Wellington.....	3,690	12,562	8,872
Wentworth.....	2,702	8,867	6,665
York.....	4,960	17,600	12,640

MERIT SYSTEM ADOPTED

In distributing the sum of \$400,000 which was voted for rural schools in 1913, as compared with \$123,000 in 1904, the Department of Education was required by the law to divide it between the Public Schools and the Separate Schools on the basis of population and average attendance. The application of this Statute allotted to the Public Schools \$370,000 and to the Separate Schools \$30,000.

The Department, under the law, made regulations to govern the distribution of this money strictly according to merit. It set up a standard of educational efficiency by means of professional attainment, equipment and provision for the comfort and health of pupils, etc. The Trustees were told that certain amounts would be allotted for compliance with this standard, but that the total to be paid to Public Schools would not exceed \$370,000, and to the Separate Schools \$30,000, that being the limit fixed and appropriated by the Legislature.

The result was a splendid showing by the Public Schools, which proved to be 28% better than the minimum required by the Department. The sum of \$370,000, without one cent's reduction, was distributed proportionately and fairly among the Public Schools in accordance with merit alone. The people secured better schools by the adoption of this plan and the certainty of still better schools in the future. On the other hand, because in some cases the salaries paid by the Separate Schools were below the standard required by the Department, and because some of the English-French Schools refused to comply with the law, the Separate Schools failed to qualify for the whole amount that would otherwise have been their share of the appropriation.

It follows, therefore, that the statement made by certain critics that there was a deduction from the payment to the Public Schools, and that there was none from the payment to the Separate Schools is exactly the reverse of the truth, and possibly made in ignorance of the facts.

II. HIGH SCHOOLS

The grants to High Schools are also on a more generous scale. Formerly, the amounts voted were insufficient to pay the grants earned by these institutions. The following table illustrates this:—

	Earned	Paid
1902.....	\$113,400	\$102,000
1903.....	117,413	106,714
1904.....	119,025	106,933

Since the present Government came into power the amounts voted for High Schools and Collegiate Institutes have risen as follows:—

1905.....	\$110,000
1906.....	115,000
1907.....	128,600
1908.....	134,000
1911.....	163,150
1912.....	164,581
1913.....	149,951