

quently." From Charlevoix comes the report that the school floors are not washed even once in two months. In Lauzon it is stated that the average salary barely exceeds \$80 per annum, and that there are two and three text books in use in the same school for the same subjects."

In Charlevoix the average salary of teachers, with diplomas, is \$63, and in Bagot the average, without diplomas, is \$47—Forty seven dollars—per annum.

The report from St. Famille says that: "It is well known that the schools are attended by but a handful of children." The need of this protest will be seen by the following, taken haphazard from the last report of the Education Department:

	Percent- age on Books.	Percent- age of At- tendance.	Not Ac- count- ed for
Hechelaga... ..	81.	65.	29.
Lake St. John... ..	67.	47.	33.
Gespe... ..	66.	45.	34.
Ottawa... ..	64.	40.	36.
Terrebonne... ..	80.	64.	20.

This shows that, in Terrebonne, for instance, 80 per cent. of the children OF SCHOOL AGE—5 to 16, as fixed by the Quebec report—are on school books somewhere. This, as any practical education-
alist knows, is nothing to go by; so we turn to the average attendance, and find it to be 64 per cent.; so that in this county, according to the Government returns, only 64 per cent. of the children are in regular attendance, whilst there is a remainder of 20 per cent. unaccounted for, the upshot of the whole being that there is, at the very least, about 36 per cent. of the children of school age who do not go anywhere. According to the census of 1891 this county stands 49th on the list of Quebec counties, there being a percentage of 59.1 of ADULT persons able to read and write. It will thus be seen that the Quebec Government amply bears out the census returns in the reports of the Inspectors.

The cities of Montreal and Quebec were not selected, for the simple reason that the report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction for last year has manifestly an error when it states that Montreal shows an average attendance of 1,602 pupils, whilst Quebec city is stated to have 7,979 children of school age, and 12,158 on the books. Another Government mystery which defies the ordinary man.

Quebec County has an average of 82 per cent. on the books, and an average at-

tendance of 29 per cent., which shows that 71 per cent. of the children are drifting somewhere. The illiteracy of this country as might be expected, is over 30 per cent.

The last report shows that in Maskinonge nothing can be worse than the low, badly-lighted and unhealthy school-rooms there, whilst the number of incompetent teachers is very large, and that the children are taught, like so many parrots, by mere rote, without a word of explanation. In Nicolet out of 191 schools, 47 are bad. From Stanfold comes the complaint that the teacher have not as much salary as a cook. Hull says that there are teachers who say they have forgotten their diplomas, which is not true; yet nothing is done. The Inspector in Richmond strikes the nail on the head when he says that "two weak points in our system of education are: First, the lack of trained teachers, and secondly, the slight connection between the Department of Public Instruction and the common schools of the country."

Of late a good deal has been heard of the first, but the second is one which is far too little thought of by the people. Practically, the School Commissioners can snap their fingers at the Department if they are so inclined. The Inspector may order so and so, but if the Commissioners do not like to carry out his orders, what power has the Department? It can attempt to appear severe and threaten, but it is well known that that is all it can do.

The long list of complaints that stud the report as to bad buildings, ill-informed teachers, miserable salaries, and illiterate School Commissioners, who pretend to manage schools when they cannot read the report or sign the necessary documents; these are only too true, but there are other matters that are not so commonly known.

The very first is that the Department, even if it had the will to reform the present hopelessly inefficient school method has not the power to do so. It has no leverage. The evil is a root one and does anyone, who has any practical knowledge of the Elementary system in vogue in the Province, pretend that Mr. Flynn's vaunted \$50,000 will remedy this? To assert any such thing would be to descend to mere baby talk or to indulge in such nonsense as we hear talked by the professional "stumper" when he strays off into educa-