

Report of the Montreal Catholic School Delegation to Dublin Exposition in July and August, 1907.

To the members of the Roman Catholic School Board, Montreal, Gentlemen: We beg to submit our report on the result of our visit to the Dublin Exposition, Ireland.

Table with 2 columns: Year, Population. 1861: 5,788,836; 1871: 5,412,377; 1881: 4,704,750; 1891: 4,456,546.

The population of Ireland reached its highest point in 1845, when it stood at 8,295,000. The famine of 1846-47, and the emigration that followed, were the proximate causes of rapid and immediate decline in population.

PARIS. Having arrived in Paris in the last days of the month of July, we were enabled to attend a distribution of prizes, which is one of the means still employed in France to excite emulation.

Ireland is divided into four provinces: Ulster in the North; Munster in the South; Leinster in the East, and Connaught in the West.

One of the superior primary schools which we visited was the Lavoisier School No. 19, Denfert, Rochouette streets. Then we visited several elementary primary schools, among others the School No. 39 Arbalète street.

The Board of Education is composed of twenty members, of these six are Catholics. One of the Commissioners is a salaried officer, and is given the title of Chairman.

By the decree of the 2nd August, 1881, it is desired that the free, public kindergarten be educational institutions where the children of both sexes will receive the care which their physical, intellectual and moral development requires.

Every national school is under the control of a trustee appointed by the Board, and belonging to the religions of the majority of the children frequenting the school.

Professional teaching has now reached a high degree of efficiency in Paris, but not without much discussion and many controversies.

NON-RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS. The principle of the national schools is to separate secular from religious teaching. In all the schools during ordinary class hours, a large card is hung up with the words "Secular teaching only."

Professional teaching, in regard to girls, has not produced the same successful results. The preparation of girls leaving the normal school of girls leaving the profession for which they have been trained is rather small.

Second principle: neutrality. Religious instruction is given only out of class hours, and separately according to the religion of the pupils.

Dublin, situated on the river Liffey, is a beautiful city of 390,000 inhabitants. It is the central point of the Irish railway system, and the starting point of the canals which cross the island.

It may be said that 170 of these Committees have enforced the law passed on this subject in 1892. But it must be admitted that this enactment has not been favored by the Nationalists, and it has not been so successful as its authors anticipated.

As is known, Dublin is the capital of Ireland—of that Ireland whose population has undergone such a remarkable periodic diminution since 1841.

It is without an equal as a remedy for Coughs, Colds, Bronchitis, Sore Throat, Pain in the Chest, Asthma, Whooping Cough, Quinsy and all affections of the Throat and Lungs.

1841..... 8,196,697  
1851..... 6,574,287

"Considering that the compulsory law of the 28th of March, 1892, has not been observed, and that many children do not go to school at all, that a large number go only at irregular intervals, or for too short a period of time;

"Resolved, that the Convention charges the General Council to inaugurate and maintain a constant public agitation on this question of compulsory attendance; and it expresses the desire;

"That this question remain permanently on the order of the day for future conventions until it is definitely solved."

The authorities have been obliged to admit that the palatial school-houses erected at great cost are not filled. Besides, statistics might amply the promoters of a theory which has failed in practice.

Among the literate, properly so-called, that is, the young people who know how to read, there were fifteen or twenty per cent of them who took Austerlitz for a French General, Waterloo for an armed cruiser, and who, when interrogated regarding the personality of Napoleon I, replied that he was a general who conquered the Germans at Waterloo, or at Reinschoffen, in 1870.

But it is no less true that school attendance is somewhat irregular everywhere, and it is always a problem to be studied and considered. If, for instance, one consults the end-of-the-year reports in Belgium (August 1907) several school inspectors of primary instruction point out the deplorable vacancies which take place in the school population on the occasion of works to be done at certain seasons of the year.

In Ireland, fishing and working in the fields keep a large number of children out of the schools. This abuse is very hard to be uprooted. In Belgium, the Department of Arts and Sciences invited, during the vacation, the principal inspectors to find out, acting with the inspectors of cantons under their control:

- 1. What are the works which, at certain seasons, in their section,

The proceedings at this reunion of the parents, at the opening of the school year, were endorsed by 1500 teachers at the Bordeaux Convention, and in the following terms. "Considering that the family, ignorant of its social duties, instead of co-operating with the school, is too often found acting in opposition to it;

The Association of ancient pupils of the Auteuil Normal School expresses the desire:

That, every year, at the re-opening of the classes, the Director of the school bring together the parents of the pupils, and remind them of their principal duties towards the school."

BUILDING OF SCHOOLS.

School-houses are sometimes built altogether at the expense of the Board of Education. Then they are called "vested schools" in so far as their title of ownership belongs to the Board. Or, the Board of Education contributes sometimes, one-third of the cost of construction, and the rest comes from different sources, and then they are called "non-vested schools," that is, schools whose title of ownership is invested in others besides the Commissioners of National Education.

SCHOOLS IN OPERATION.

On the 31st of December, 1905, there were 8,659 schools in operation. These schools could accommodate 819,309 pupils. The average number of pupils on the lists was 742,457; the average attendance 500,489.

SCHOOLS IN IRELAND DEPENDENT ON THE BOARD OF NATIONAL EDUCATION.

Table with 3 columns: Provinces, Vested, Total. Ulster: 583, 889; Munster: 848, 1234; Leinster: 452, 531; Connaught: 775, 940.

Besides these schools there are a good number of others receiving a subsidy. There are about 301 convents (religious) where the pupils pay so much each; 29 others where a personal salary is paid to the teachers. Communities of men are also under the control of the Board of Education. The teachers in 49 monasteries receive a salary from the Commissioners of Education.

SUMMARY.

Table with 3 columns: Paid per head, Paid a Salary. Convents: 801, 29; Monasteries: 2, 49.

Besides the schools depending on the Board of Education, there are still others where the pupils in attendance receive sound instruction and a truly remarkable education, a work which reflects honor on the directors and teachers. These are the establishments of those who are called "Irish Christian Brothers," so called to distinguish them from the Brothers of the Christian Schools, whose founder is Jean-Baptiste de la Salle.

This community of Irish Christian Brothers have the direction of schools in the principal cities of Ireland. These schools are independent of the Board of Education, and are supported exclusively by the voluntary contributions of the people. This community of teachers has always remained in constant contact with the soul of the nation. And, since it strenuously endeavors to realize the National aspirations, following closely the trend of modern progress, and sending its best men everywhere to study the best and most successful methods of doing things, it has not failed to secure the sympathy and esteem of the people for the success which crowns its efforts.

These Brothers have a system of teaching peculiarly their own. They have their own officers and inspectors, their own series of text-books in every branch of instruction. They also conduct industrial schools and institutions of secondary instruction.

The Sisters of the Holy Faith, in like manner, conduct primary schools for girls without receiving any subsidy or assistance from the Government.

First and foremost, they take pleasure in reproducing what our delegates to the St. Louis Exposition frequently said on their return home. "It is in this way," said Mr. Howard, Chief of the St. Louis Exposition Department, "that the Exposition of the Crystal Palace in London in 1851 brought about the establishment of the School of Industrial Arts at the Museum in South Kensington."

The rapid increase in the teaching of manual training and industrial art was due to the Chicago Exposition of 1893. The Exposition of Paris in 1900 was the determining cause of the resolution taken by the French Government to send, every year, a certain number of pupils to the United States to study these industrial and commercial methods which constitute the riches of the country.

Waterpark College—(Brothers of the Christian Schools.) This college was founded in 1892, and prepares pupils for business and for the professions, that means that both primary and secondary instruction are imparted in the College. There are seven classes for pupils; and these are equipped with all modern apparatus and supplied with objects of art and educational interest.—Natural History, Architecture, Art, Drawing, Science, Botany and Geology. These class-rooms have also a laboratory for chemistry and physics, a department for business and for civil service. A library, a field for football, a swimming club, (rather a natural club) and large gardens afford all the advantages required for the development of mind and body.

This institution was founded, in 1888, but considerable additions have been made to it since then. In the new wings the lighting, heating and ventilation are in conformity with the principles of modern progress.

It is inevitable not to speak of sport when traversing British soil. Nevertheless we do not intend to discuss the theory of sports, or to study their inwardness from a psychological point of view.

Rev. Father Dixon did not overlook it. In fact, all the governments of the world have recognized that the domain of sport exercises an influence on the school and on the future of the race.

From the triple viewpoint of material, pedagogic and disciplinary organization we do not pretend that everything is perfection in Ireland, any more than elsewhere. Neither did we visit the worst equipped schools. We were shown, by preference, the best, and, as we do not pretend to play the critic, we have selected, by preference, the most meritorious institutions.

One of the things peculiar to instruction in Ireland is what we saw at the Central Normal School in Dublin, and at the practice schools annexed thereto: it is what is called "Elementary Experimental Science."

This sort of teaching, however, is not peculiar to Ireland; it is based on a report of a British Association Committee. Here is what it consists of:

A small laboratory is constructed with all the instruments necessary for measuring. The pupils have to come into contact with all these instruments and accustom themselves to handle them, and perform the various operations. In the first three degrees, this instruction is given in the form of object lessons.

In the five other grades a real practical course in the elements of chemistry and physics is followed. The laboratory is approached by instruction of this kind absolutely based on experience. The pupils are then required to give a synopsis, in writing, of the lesson given them; and this accustoms them, at the same time, to the practice of literary composition. (See Rules and Regulations of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland.)

In like manner, in the teaching of Domestic Economy, the idea is to give it a scientific basis, founded on the experiences made by the girls themselves. So, the course is divided into three parts, and into these enter, more or less, all the ideas appearing on the programme of studies for boys, entitled "Elementary Experimental Science."

Nevertheless, we must remark that a good deal of trouble has been experienced in introducing the course of elementary science, manual training, cooking and washing.

Take, for instance, the official report, and you will see what is said about the circuit of Killarney, the results obtained are very insignificant. Elsewhere we visited other National schools; at Cork we visited St. Peter's school, St. Paul's school, and St. Francis school. At Waterford we visited St. Patrick's school, and St. Etienne's school, which is the school of practice for the pupils of the Normal school of the city conducted by the Brothers of the Christian Schools (de la Salle.)

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Besides, we visited the College of the Brothers of the Presentation at Mardyke, Cork.

The object of this college conducted by the Brothers of the Presentation is to afford the inhabitants of the city of Cork an opportunity to give their children a high English, classical, scientific and commercial

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Blue Ribbon Tea advertisement with coupon and contact information.

Advertisement for Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup, highlighting its effectiveness for coughs and colds.

Advertisement for Beie's Preparation of Friar's Cough Balsam, featuring an illustration of a man and descriptive text.