

The amount expended by the government for educational purposes was \$121,781.17, being a decrease of \$296.23, while the amount expended by School Boards was \$20,241.73 being an increase of \$1,551.70. Total expenditure by government and school boards \$161,207.60, an increase over last year of \$1,276.02. Cost per pupil enrolled \$7.24, increase 5 cts. Cost of pupil in daily attendance \$12.16, a decrease of 28 cts.

In view of the fact that so few candidates during the past few years have taken the Junior Entrance examination to the Normal School, the special class for such pupils has been discontinued. The junior candidates join the senior class in such subjects as they take. The Superintendent recommends the discontinuance of the junior examination.

Touching reference is made to the death of the late Inspector Balderston, also to the retirement of Prof. Robertson from the Prince of Wales College staff on account of ill-health.

The report concludes with the expression of the opinion that "Nowhere are the benefits of education more fully appreciated than in this Province," and that, "no effort will be spared to give every citizen the advantages of at least a good elementary education."

Teachers' Salaries.

From British Columbia to New Brunswick a decrease in teachers' salaries is noted. This is a matter that lies very closely at the root of the country's welfare, as no one can doubt that this tendency is a sure forerunner of a falling off in the character of the work done in the schools.

We may seek to infuse a better professional spirit among teachers and endeavor to educate them in non-interference and underbidding; but the liberty of the subject remains, and will remain, both as regards teachers and trustees. Unprincipled teachers and irresponsible trustees will always exist, and their example will always be potent for evil. All boards of education and those interested in education must deplore this state of affairs.

Is there any way by which this downward tendency in salaries and consequent deterioration in school work may be prevented?

One legitimate method would be—raise the standard of qualification for license. This has been done to a certain extent, but it is possible under the present conditions for a clever pupil to obtain scholarship sufficient for any class of license at an early age. Another method, then, would be to increase the age of admission to normal school—as has been done in British Columbia, where, in 1896, males will require to be twenty years of age and females eighteen before receiving licenses to

teach. Many think that a teacher should be at least twenty one, and certainly the schools would, in many cases, be the better for more mature teachers. A girl of sixteen is but a child herself.

Another legitimate method would be to fix a minimum salary for teachers by law. The REVIEW has referred to this side of the question before. Interest and intelligence in school matters should emanate from the choice of the representatives of the people or the government. It should lead public sentiment, not follow it. It has determined the amount to be paid by the province to teachers of certain qualifications. It has also fixed a minimum in certain cases—grammar and superior schools. It would be quite as much within its rights to go further and fix a minimum salary for all classes of teachers.

In Nova Scotia it has been proposed to establish county boards of trustees instead of district. This certainly would have a tendency to produce more uniformity and less narrow mindedness. A whole county can be trusted to be more judicious and liberal than a single district.

School Reports.

The report of the Ontario Minister of Education for the year of 1895 has been received.

Progress is indicated in every department of work, especially that of the high schools. Male teachers do not fall off in numbers, though they do not keep pace with females in the increase. It seems odd to us in the Maritime Provinces to notice fees in connection with the high schools. It is very gratifying to note the existence of a superannuation fund in Ontario, which seems to have reached very respectable proportions. In 1895 there were 435 teachers on the list. The expenditure for the year was \$63,800, and the gross contributions to the fund was \$1,321.50.

The salaries of teachers in Ontario have very slightly decreased. There were 8,110 teachers employed during the year, of whom 3,168 have attended a normal school. It seems that all the teachers in Ontario are not yet trained. The average salary for male teachers was \$421, females \$300. There are 129 high schools and 554 high school teachers.

The Inspectors' reports seem rather meagre, but it seems probable that they are confined to certain topics. Some of their inquiries are interesting—Number of pupils who wear glasses, number with defective hearing, number who take luncheon in school, number indifferent to play, condition of school sites, fences, growing shade trees, wells, screened closets, etc. Health of teachers, number of schools with porch, number not whitewashed, not scrubbed 1895, not swept daily, number without