

Half-yearly percentage of enrolled pupils daily present on an average:—

	Winter Term.	Summer Term.
Whole Province	58.04	54.93
St. John	61.25	66.86
Fredericton	72.05	70.00
St. Stephen	79.00	78.91

The report goes on to say, in reference to the whole table:—These figures indicate some improvement. It is to be borne in mind that the above percentages are reckoned on the entire enrolment of pupils at school during each half-year. No allowance is made for pupils withdrawn from school during the half-year, from whatever cause—removal, sickness or death. The figures above given represent, therefore, the attendance as less regular than it actually was on the part of those really belonging to the schools throughout the term. This may be seen more strikingly when I state that the average monthly percentage of pupils daily present each half of the past year was for the winter 75.58, and for the summer 72.88, throughout the Province. It will be seen that the Secretary to the Board of Trustees of St. John reports the average monthly percentage for the city schools as 88.26 for the winter, and 90.95 for the summer. Having made these remarks by way of preventing any misconception of what the half-yearly percentage really represents as obtained in our school statistics, I wish to express my conviction that it is possible to bring this percentage up to 75 for the whole Province.

The following are the average salaries of teachers, as exhibited in the tables: 1st Class, male, \$553; do., female, \$368; 2nd Class, male, \$350; do., female, \$253; 3rd Class, male, \$243; do., female, \$186.

In the average salary of male teachers of the First Class, the salaries of the Principals of the Grammar Schools, and the extra grants to teachers of superior schools, are not included.

Grammar Schools.—In previous reports to the Legislature, I have emphasized the importance of Secondary Schools, not only in the interests of the higher education, but especially in the interests of our Common Schools. * * * I am persuaded that it is illusory to expect to reach through County Grammar Schools the end desired. It requires a complete and extensive outfit of house accommodation and apparatus, and a superior teaching staff. Provision is needed not only adapted to prepare pupils for a Collegiate or University course, but for commercial or industrial pursuits as well. The schools established, as a guarantee that secondary instruction shall not be left merely to the voluntary efforts of the Districts, require to be brought more directly under Provincial control, and to assume more of a Provincial character before the public.

I am confirmed in my opinion that the establishment of three Division High Schools for the Province, each having an English and Classical Course, would furnish the guarantee desired. These schools should be located at Fredericton, St. John and Chatham or Newcastle, and each should be open to pupils from one-third of the Province.

The Provincial Normal School.—This institution is doing admirable work in preparing teachers for the duties of their profession. The Principal and his coadjutors are enthusiastically devoted to a high discharge of the difficult and laborious duties assigned to them. A spirit of harmony and co-operation pervades all departments of the school, and in respect of teachers and accommodation there is little to be desired.

The course of instruction in the institution is now progressive for three sessions, and embraces some subjects not hitherto taught—English Literature and Natural Science. The latter subject was commenced in May last, when Mr. James Fowler, A.M., a gentleman well known as possessing eminent scientific attainments, was appointed instructor. During the same session, Miss M. Alice Clark, a graduate of the Boston University School of Oratory, was appointed instructor in Reading and Vocal Culture. The institution is therefore now prepared to offer to its students even a literary course of no ordinary character.

Examinations of Teachers.—The number admitted to examination in 1878 was 292, of whom 265 received provincial license of some class, viz., 5 of the Grammar School class, 16 of the first class, 142 of the second class, and 102 of the third class. 249 of the candidates were admitted to the examination as being student-teachers of the Normal School.

Cities and Towns.—The Secretary of the Board of School Trustees of St. John states in his report that:

“The work of reorganizing the City Schools, commenced in the

autumn of 1877, has been vigorously pressed forward during the year 1878, until the pupils are again all provided for in comfortable buildings with suitable furniture and apparatus, and under the direction of teachers who appear to be earnestly endeavoring to do their duty in the work to which they have devoted themselves. Although the effects of the Great Fire of 1877 are still more or less apparent in the absence from the schools of many of the children who formerly attended, and in the unevenness of some of the grades, caused by the necessity of filling up the departments to a given number rather than in accordance with the attainments of the pupils, the city is to be congratulated upon the rapid manner in which the difficulties caused by the destruction of so many school buildings and the dispersion of the people, have been overcome. Indeed, in the matter of accommodation and material for efficient work, the city is in a better position to carry forward the education of its youth than at any former period. The numbers in attendance have also gradually increased, until they have reached those of the term immediately before the fire.”

The schools of Fredericton are, generally, in excellent condition, and the Board of Trustees is resolved to ply every available means for the removal of everything which in any way retards school progress in the city. The Board reports that:

The schools of St. Stephen are second to none in the Province, and the percentage of attendance exceeds that reached in any other of the large school districts.

The schools of Moncton are steadily improving.

The winter session of the Provincial Normal School was closed on Friday, March 14th, with a public oral examination of the student teachers, occupying about seven hours. A large number of visitors were present, including the Lieut.-Governor, several members of the Legislature, the Chief Superintendent, and the President of the Provincial University. The exercises were of a highly satisfactory character.

During the succeeding week, the semi-annual examination for licenses was held by the Chief Superintendent. There were 159 candidates, working for the several classes as follows: for the Grammar School Class, 3; for First Class, 14; for Second Class, 98; for Third Class, 44.

To the candidates already mentioned for the vacant chair of Classics and History in the University of New Brunswick must now be added Mr. Eugene Lafleur, B.A., of Montreal, a recent graduate of McGill University, whose testimonials of scholarship and fitness for the position are certainly of the highest order. Mr. Lafleur gained extraordinary distinctions during his academic and collegiate career, and is spoken of as an enthusiastic student and a successful teacher.

In our New Brunswick “Notes and News,” of last month, the figures in the last paragraph were unintentionally misrepresented. The qualifying word “estimated” should relate only to the number given for 1874.

The Legislature, which adjourned on the 15th April, had several Bills under consideration referring to school interests. One introduced by Robert Marshall, Esq., of St. John city, proposed so to levy and disburse the county school fund in the county of St. John as practically to dissociate the county districts and the town of Portland from the city. The Bill received no support in the House, and was dropped. Later in the session a Bill, prepared by the City Council of Fredericton, was introduced by G. A. Blair, Esq., of Fredericton, providing that the City Council should have power to remove any of its appointees on the Board of School Trustees, as it might deem proper, even though the period of service (four years) should not have expired. The House very properly refused thus to place the Board of School Trustees at the mercy of the City Council, and the Bill was dropped. The Government introduced the following Bill relating to Inspection, and Superior Schools, which was passed:—

1. In view of the provisions of Section thirteen of Chapter sixty five of The Consolidated Statutes, relating to Schools, the Board of Education is hereby empowered to decrease the number of Inspectors, and revise and enlarge the Inspectorial Districts as the requirements of the School service may in its judgment permit; and to appoint specially qualified Inspectors for the Districts in respect to which Section thirteen aforesaid shall as hereinafter provided be brought into operation. To prescribe their duties, and to determine the salary of each Inspector, not exceeding, for salary, travelling expenses, and contingencies of office, the sum of twelve hundred dollars.

2. The Board of Education shall announce through the Royal Gazette the erection of any Inspectorial District, with a view to the