

This report shows that there are in my district of inspection twenty-six municipalities, of which twenty are under the control of Protestant school commissioners, four under the control of Protestant trustees and two under the control of Roman-Catholic commissioners. Six of these are village municipalities, viz. : Coaticook, Waterville, Beebe-Plain, Stanstead-Plain, Dixville, and Lake Megantic. Sixteen municipalities are in the county of Compton, eight in the county of Stanstead and two in the county of Wolfe. Those having the largest number of schools are Stanstead, Barnston and Compton.

The total number of schools in operation in my Inspectorate this year, was one hundred and ninety-four, an increase of three over the previous year. The number of pupils attending was four thousand six hundred and fifty-nine, an increase of two hundred and twenty-four over last year's figures.

These one hundred and ninety-four schools are classified as follows : One academy, six model schools and one hundred and eighty-seven elementary. There are also the Stanstead Wesleyan College and Compton Ladies' College, neither of which I have included in my report, as both of these institutions send returns directly to your department.

There was a slight improvement in the average attendance this year, being about seventy-nine per cent.

The Coaticook Academy which is, as usual, graded in five departments, was attended this year by two hundred and fifty pupils, with an average attendance of one hundred and sixty-eight.

There were fifty-four pupils in the academy courses, fifty-one in the model school department, and one hundred and fifty five in the elementary.

The model schools are those of Waterville, East-Hatley, Robinson, Marbleton, Cookshire and Gould.

The largest elementary schools were kept at Beebe-Plain, Sawyer-ville, Barnston-Corner, Dixville and Scotstown. Two teachers were employed in each of those schools and much improvement shown in all of them.

There is not much change in the general management of the schools since last year. In many of them, there has been marked progress during the year, while a number remain about the same.

The commissioners, as a rule, take a lively interest in the schools under their charges, and endeavor according to the best of their ability to carry out your instructions and those of the Protestant Committee of the Council of Public Instruction.

There has been some improvement in the manner of engaging teachers, as most of them are now engaged by the year or at least for the number of months that their schools are to be in session during the year.

Six new school houses have been completed : two in the municipality of Eaton, one in Dudswell, one in East Clifton, one in Stanstead and one in Whitton, while a number of others have been extensively repaired.