

| | # Grade. | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | Date |
|----------------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| Montreal . . . | 100 p.c. | 94.9 p.c. | 80.9 p.c. | 65.4 p.c. | 46.0 p.c. | 29.4 p.c. | — | 1906-17 |
| Toronto . . . | 100 p.c. | 92.4 p.c. | 92.5 p.c. | 103.2 p.c. | 82.1 p.c. | 61.8 p.c. | 50 p.c. | 1916 |
| Ottawa . . . | 100 p.c. | 92.0 p.c. | 66.0 p.c. | 73.0 p.c. | 56.6 p.c. | 59.4 p.c. | 50 p.c. | 1917 |
| New York . . . | 100 p.c. | 99.5 p.c. | 98.3 p.c. | 94.2 p.c. | 85.3 p.c. | 75.6 p.c. | 56.6 p.c. | 1913 |

It is readily seen from this table that while the proportion of pupils enrolled in Grades 3 and 4 in Montreal is about like that of the other cities, yet lower than the average of the three cities, there is a decided slump on reaching Grade 5, while in Grade 6 the relative proportion in the Montreal schools is only about 60 p.c. of what it is in cities under attendance laws. In Grade 7 it drops to about 40 p.c. of the proportion in the other three cities. Even if Grade 7 of our schools is considered equivalent to Grade 8 in the others, the proportion of children left in school is only 60 p.c. of the proportion that in Toronto, Ottawa and New York finish the Public School course. Remembering that our course is one year shorter than that of these cities, we see how much less schooling our children are getting.

It is interesting to note that in different European cities (X) having an eight grade elementary school course, the percent of children who finished the eighth grade was 99.46 p.c., 99.2 p.c., 99.77 p.c., 99.53 p.c., 99.67 p.c., 99.93 p.c., 98.31 p.c., 99.62 p.c., 99.4 p.c., 98.62 p.c., etc.

The proportion of children who remain in school after 12, 13 or 14 years of age is much greater in areas under attendance laws than in those which have voluntary attendance.

We give below the proportion of pupils of various ages in the elementary classes of the same cities (XX). (Information not being to hand for Catholic Schools giving the number of children in single age periods, we again use the figures for Protestant Schools only.)

| | Standard | Aged 12 | Aged 13 | Aged 14 | Aged 15 | Source of data |
|--------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|
| Montreal (Prot.) | 100 p.c. | 80.0 p.c. | 65.9 p.c. | 44.3 p.c. | 19.3 p.c. | Ages for January 1917 |
| Toronto | 100 p.c. | 88.4 p.c. | 82.8 p.c. | 56.1 p.c. | 24.7 p.c. | For June 1917 |
| Ottawa | 100 p.c. | 99.1 p.c. | 78.1 p.c. | 49.3 p.c. | 24.5 p.c. | For February 1917 |
| New York | 100 p.c. | 94.4 p.c. | 87.0 p.c. | 53.3 p.c. | 22.8 p.c. | Report of 1913, p. 440. |

In the Montreal elementary Schools (Protestant) there were 11,123 pupils aged 8-11. If as large a proportion of the 12, 13 and 14 year old pupils combined had been enrolled in these Montreal Schools as in the elementary schools of Toronto, there would have been 1,223 more pupils enrolled of these ages than there were, or more than 20 p.c. of the number actually enrolled. Such is the difference in attendance of the older children under compulsory and voluntary systems.

The following table, reproduced from the 1916 Report of the Chief Inspector for Toronto Schools, gives interesting information about "Dropping out of School".

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Moved away from City | 3,299 |
| LEFT SCHOOL ON BECOMING | |
| 14 YEARS | 2,805 |
| Passed H. S. or completed | |
| public school course | 2,218 |
| Left to attend Technical, Separate | |
| or Private Schools | 761 |
| Out of school owing to protracted | |
| illness | 443 |
| Dropped out and absence unac- | |
| counted for | |
| (a) under compulsory age (8 | |
| years) | 221 |
| (b) between 8 and 14 years of age | |
| Granted exemption owing to needy | |
| circumstances | 176 |
| Removed by death | 117 |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Physical disability other than ill- | |
| ness | 65 |
| Excluded owing to mental deficiency | 39 |

It will be noted that but 235 pupils of compulsory age out of 10,379 who dropped out of school, or only 235 out of a total enrolment of 71,352, left school in Toronto without a valid reason being known for their elimination. But what was the number who left when the law no longer compelled their attendance? It was 2,805, twelve times as many or more than 1/4 greater than the number who completed the course. What kept them till then but the effective working of the attendance law? The elimination is much greater proportionately in Montreal schools, and here it takes place at 12 and 13 years of age as well as at 14. It will be noted that

(X) See Bulletin No. 2 of 1914 of U. S. Bureau of Education.

(XX) In order to make the comparison on the basis of an eight year course, 80 p.c. of the pupils of the various ages in Grade 7 of the Montreal schools has been taken and a year added to their respective ages to form a Grade 8. As the standard of comparison we have taken, not the number of those aged 11 but 1/4 of those aged 8-11, as being a more stable standard than the number of any one age.