

727. The educational system of British Columbia is free, <sup>Expendi-
ture.</sup> and is supported entirely by the Government. The expenditure under this head in 1886 amounted to \$79,527, which was an increase of \$8,376 over the preceding year. The sum of \$19,088 was also expended on the construction and repairs of school houses, twelve new ones having been built during the year.

728. There was an increase in the total number of pupils <sup>Increase
in atten-
dance.</sup> enrolled of 444, and in the average actual attendance of 391.

729. In 1873 the number of school districts was 25, and <sup>Progress
since 1873.</sup> of pupils 1,028, the average daily attendance was 575, and the amount expended for education, \$36,764 ; in 1886 there were 86 school districts and 4,471 pupils, the average attendance was 2,526, and the expenditure \$79,527. It will be seen that the Province has made considerable progress during the period.

730. The average attendance in 1886 was 55.50 per cent. <sup>Average
attend-
ance, 1886.</sup> of the total number enrolled.

731. The following table gives the total number of pupils, <sup>Education
in Prince
Edward
Island.</sup> as well as the number in the different branches of education in the schools of Prince-Edward Island in 1886 :—