

closed with prayer, and the reading of the Scriptures, but without comment or explanation, while the trustees and clergy of all denominations are empowered to make special arrangements for religious instruction. By this means the fullest facilities for religious instruction are given, without the assumption by the Government of any responsibility in regard to the instruction imparted.

Public
schools
Ontario
1886.

517. As previously stated, the control of education in Ontario is vested in the Minister of Education, and subject to the approval of the Provincial Government, all regulations for the Public and High schools are made by him. These schools are under the control of local boards of trustees, elected by the ratepayers, and are allowed to have none but certificated teachers. Education of children between the ages of 7 and 13 is compulsory for not less than 100 days in the year, but the law is by no means as strictly enforced as is desirable in the educational interests of the Province. The following table gives particulars respecting the Public schools of Ontario in 1886, Roman Catholic Separate schools being included :

PUBLIC SCHOOLS, ONTARIO, 1886.

Number of Schools open.	School Population between 5 and 21 years of age.	Total Number of Pupils.	Boys.	Girls.	Average Attendance.
5,437	601,204	487,496	257,030	230,466	239,044
TEACHERS.		Receipts.	Expenditure.	AVERAGE COST PER PUPIL.	
Male.	Female.			On Total Attendance.	On Average Attendance.
2,727	4,637	\$ 3,993,483	\$ 3,457,699	\$ cts. 7 09	\$ cts. 14 46