

518. The proportion of pupils registered to the total school population was almost exactly the same as in 1885, the slight difference being in favour of 1886, as shown by the following figures: 1885, 81·02 per cent.; 1886, 81·08 per cent.; but there was a decided improvement in the attendance, the proportion to registered pupils being 49·03 per cent., as compared with 47·81 per cent. in 1885. No less than 93,375 children between the ages of 7 and 13 did not attend for the full time of 100 days, and of this number 90·10 per cent. lived in the rural districts. The average attendance in rural districts was 45 per cent. of the registered attendance; in towns it was 59 per cent. and in cities 63 per cent. Bad weather, bad roads and long distances from the school no doubt contribute principally to reduce the attendance in rural districts, particularly during the winter months.

Average attendance.

519. There was an increase over 1885 of 42 in the number of schools open and of 146 in the number of teachers.

Number of schools.

520. The following table gives particulars concerning the Roman Catholic Separate schools in Ontario in 1886:—

Separate schools Ontario 1886.

ROMAN CATHOLIC SEPARATE SCHOOLS, ONTARIO, 1886.

Number of Schools.	Number of Pupils.	Boys.	Girls.	Average Attendance.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	AVERAGE COST PER PUPIL.	
							On Total Attendance.	On Average Attendance.
					\$	\$	\$ cts.	\$ cts.
224	29,199	14,860	14,339	15,959	193,908	179,730	6 15	11 27

The average attendance at the Separate schools was better than at the public schools, being 55 per cent. of the total number of pupils, and it will be seen that the average cost per pupil was less both on total and average attendance than in the Public schools.