

533. The Government grant for elementary schools of \$160,000 is not considered sufficient by the Superintendent, and he again complains of the number of uncertificated teachers employed, especially in the back districts, by municipalities too poor to pay more qualified ones, there being no less than 700 schools taught by female teachers too young and inexperienced, and possessing none of the qualifications for teaching.

Insufficiency of proper teachers.

534. The Council of Public Instruction in Nova Scotia consists of the members of the Executive Council. There is also a Superintendent of Education. The total management of the Public schools is in the hands of trustees chosen by the ratepayers of the section.

Education in Nova Scotia.

535. There was a slight falling off in the number of pupils and in the average attendance, the latter having been 58.56 per cent. of the number enrolled, as compared with 59.66 per cent. in 1886. Attendance at the Public schools of children between the ages of 7 and 12 is by law compulsory, but the regulation is not strictly enforced. There was, however, a decrease of 22 in the number of sections without schools, and increases of 56 and 41 respectively in the number of teachers and schools in operation.

Average attendance.

The proportion of the population at school remained about the same as in 1886, viz: 1 in 41.

Population at school.

536. The total Government expenditure for education during 1887 was \$216,085, an increase of \$6,252. The county fund amounted to \$119,047, and the sectional assessments to \$290,544, the three amounts making a total of \$625,676.

Expenditure.

537. The following table of educational statistics explains itself:—

Educational statistics Nova Scotia.