

promoting education, and it is estimated that upwards of 1,500,000 acres are available for settlement. These lands have, until quite recently, been purposely kept out of the market, in order to allow their value to increase; but in January, 1888, a number of sections were offered for sale at several points in the Province, when 19,986 acres were disposed of for the sum of \$140,189, the average price realized having been \$7 per acre, the maximum price \$16.10 per acre, and the minimum \$5 per acre. Some idea can be gathered from the foregoing of the very great value of this educational endowment.

545. The following statistics relate only to the Protestant schools of Manitoba, particulars of the Roman Catholic schools not being available. The increase in the number of schools has been very rapid. In 1871 there were only 16 in the Province; in 1881 there were 128, and in 1886 there were 496. The school age is 5 to 15 years inclusive, and in 1886 the school population in organized districts was 16,834, the number attending school 15,926, and the average attendance 8,129. There is a Normal school for the training of teachers, and a High school or Collegiate department at Winnipeg, at which the attendance in 1886 was 114. The total number attending school was 16,926, there being 1,000 over the school age, and of the whole number 9,041 were boys and 7,885 girls. The number of teachers employed was 524. The expenditure of local school boards is provided for annually as follows:—1. From the Government grant, not exceeding \$100 to each school. 2. From the municipal levy, not exceeding \$240 to each school. 3. From the special district tax for the balance required. The Government grant in 1886 amounted to \$54,749 and the total receipts to \$380,623, being an increase of 41,627 over 1885. The total expenditure amounted to \$352,850, an increase of \$31,950 over 1885.

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