

Protestant Schools in Manitoba. 631. The following statistics relate only to the Protestant schools of Manitoba. 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 1887 there were 522 districts organized and 464 schools in operation. The school age is 5 to 15 years inclusive, and in 1887 the school population in organized districts was 17,600, the number attending school 16,940, and the average attendance 9,715. There is a Normal School for the training of teachers at Winnipeg, at which the attendance in 1887 was 143. The total number attending school was 17,905, there being 305 over the school age. The first Arbor Day was held on 8th May, 1890. The number of teachers employed was 581. 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 \$59,550 and the total receipts to \$357,267. The total expenditure amounted to \$318,142.

Roman Catholic Schools in Manitoba. 632. Under control of the Roman Catholic Board there were, in 1888, 59 school districts, with a total of 4,364 pupils—2,163 boys and 2,201 girls. The expenditure for the half year ended 30th June, 1889, amounted to \$8,138.

Educational system British Columbia. 633. The educational system of British Columbia is free, undenominational, and supported entirely by the Government. There is a Superintendent of Education, acting under the Provincial Secretary, and each school is locally controlled by trustees, elected by the ratepayers of each school district.

Average attendance. 634. There was an increase in the number of schools and pupils, but a decrease in the average daily attendance from 53.75 per cent. to 48.54 per cent., which was attributed partly to severe weather, and partly to a prevalence of contagious diseases incident to children, which necessitated absence on the part of many in order to avoid infection. There was an in-