

sisting of 12 Protestants and the other section of 9 Roman Catholics, each section having exclusive control over the schools of its own denomination. If the Act of 1890 should come into operation the above arrangement would of course cease entirely, but the validity of the Act has been called in question, and the matter is now before the courts.

665. Two sections of land of 640 acres each, in every township, are reserved and held in trust by the Dominion Government as school lands, for the purpose of aiding and 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, being an average of nearly \$7.30 per acre.

666. The following statistics relate only to the Protestant schools of Manitoba. The progress of education in the Province has been very rapid, as the following figures show:—

EDUCATIONAL STATISTICS OF MANITOBA, 1871, 1887, 1888, and 1889.

Year	Number of Schools.	Number of Teachers.	School Population.	Number of Pupils.	Average Attendance.
1871 .....	16	.....	.....	816	.....
1887 .....	464	581	17,600	16,940	9,715
1888 .....	495	675	18,850	18,000	9,856
1889 .....	524	668	21,471	18,358	11,242

667. The school age is 5 to 15 years inclusive, and from the above table it will be seen that 84 per cent. of the school population was at school, while the average attendance was 61 per cent. Figures such as these not only demonstrate the