

viding for the abolition of separate schools—all public schools to be non-sectarian, and religious exercises to be at the option of the school trustees of the district, subject to the regulations of the advisory board. In Quebec the schools are Protestant and Roman Catholic, and education is based on religious teaching, the Roman Catholic catechism, and, in Protestant schools, the Bible, being text books. In Ontario the schools are undenominational, but Protestants and Roman Catholics are allowed separate schools within certain limitations. Every public and high school is opened and closed with prayer, and the reading of the scriptures, but without comment or explanation. The trustees, however, and clergy of all denominations, are empowered to make special arrangements for religious instruction. By this means the fullest facilities for religious instructions are given, without the assumption by the Government of any responsibility in regard to the instruction imparted.

583. As previously stated, the control of education in Ontario is vested in the Minister of Education, and, subject to the approval of the Provincial Government, all regulations for the public and high schools are made by him. These schools are under the control of local boards of trustees, elected by the ratepayers, and are allowed to have none but certificated teachers. Education of children between the ages of 7 and 13 is compulsory for not less than 100 days in the year, but the law is by no means as strictly enforced as is desirable in the educational interests of the province. The following table gives particulars respecting the public schools of Ontario in 1889, Roman Catholic separate schools being included :—

Public schools in Ontario, 1889.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS, ONTARIO, 1889.

Number of Schools open.	School Population between 5 and 21 years of age.	Total Number of Pupils.	Boys.	Girls.	Average Attendance.
5,623	616,028	500,815	263,047	237,768	253,943
TEACHERS.		Receipts.	Expenditure	AVERAGE COST PER PUPIL.	
Male.	Female.			On Total Attendance.	On Average Attendance.
		\$	\$	\$ cts.	\$ cts.
2,774	5,183	4,851,061	4,198,517	8 44	16 53