

Average attendance.

584. There was an increase of 5,492 in the number of pupils registered in 1889 as compared with 1888, and there was an increase of nearly 1 per cent in the proportion of registered pupils to school population, the figures for 1889 having been 81·30 per cent as against 80·49 per cent in 1888. The average attendance for the whole province was also one per cent higher, being 51 per cent. In rural districts it was 47 per cent, in towns 60 per cent and in cities 64 per cent. Though the compulsory education of children between the ages of 7 and 13 is provided for by statute, yet the provision is not enforced with sufficient strictness, as is evident from the fact that 86,515 children between those ages did not attend school for 100 days, the period appointed by the Act. The largest number of offenders was naturally in the rural districts, the proportion to the total number of absentees being 86 per cent.

Separate schools in Ontario.

585. The following table gives particulars concerning the Roman Catholic separate schools in Ontario in 1889 :—

ROMAN CATHOLIC SEPARATE SCHOOLS, ONTARIO, 1889.

Number of Schools.	Number of Pupils.	Boys.	Girls.	Average Attendance.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	AVERAGE COST PER PUPIL.	
							On Total Attendance.	On Average Attendance.
					\$	\$	\$ cts.	\$ cts.
243	32,790	16,707	16,083	18,153	267,304	244,440	7 45	13 46

The average attendance at the separate schools was better than at the public schools, being 55 per cent of the total number of pupils, while the average cost per pupil, both on total attendance and on average attendance, was less than in the public schools.

There were also 9 Protestant separate schools, all of which made returns, showing 11 teachers, 526 pupils, average attendance, 245, and expenditure, \$5,832.

High schools in Ontario, 1889.

586. The following are particulars concerning the high schools in Ontario in 1889 :—