

Government of any responsibility in regard to the instruction imparted.

1384. Subject to the approval of the Provincial Government, all regulations for the public and high schools are made by the Minister of Education. 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 1891, Roman Catholic separate schools being included :—

PUBLIC SCHOOLS, ONTARIO, 1891.

Number of Schools open.	School Population between 5 and 21 years of age.	Total Number of Pupils.	Boys.	Girls.	Average Attendance.
5,826	615,781	491,741	256,674	235,067	257,642
TEACHERS.		Receipts.	Expenditure	AVERAGE COST PER PUPIL.	
Male.	Female.			On Total Attendance.	On Average Attendance.
		\$	\$	\$ cts.	\$ cts.
2,755	5,581	4,771,311	4,076,241	8 34	15 82

1385. There was a decrease of 4,824 in the number of pupils registered in 1891, as compared with 1890, and a decrease of 0·52 per cent in the proportion of registered pupils to school population, the figures for 1891 having been 79·85 per cent as against 80·37 per cent in 1890. The average attendance for the whole province was 52 per cent, being one per cent higher than in the preceding year. In rural districts it was 48 per cent, in towns 61 per cent, and in cities 67 per cent. Though the compulsory education of children between the ages of 7 and 13 is provided for by statute, yet the provision has not been enforced with sufficient strictness, as is evident from the fact that 78,512 children