

1355. Two sections of land, 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 were for many years 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 about \$7 per acre; in January, 1892, 53,030 acres were sold by auction, and realized \$421,518, being an average of \$7.95 per acre, and again in January and February, 1893, 12,603 acres were disposed of for the sum of \$89,505, or an average price of \$7.10 per acre.

1356. The progress of education in Manitoba has been very rapid, as the following figures show. The figures previous to 1890 are for Protestant schools only:—

EDUCATIONAL STATISTICS OF MANITOBA, 1883 TO 1895.

YEAR.	Number of Schools.	Number of Teachers.	School Population.	Number of Pupils.	Average Attendance.
1883.....	256	246	12,346	10,831	5,064
1884.....	326	359	14,129	11,708	6,520
1885.....	390	476	15,850	13,074	7,847
1886.....	422	525	16,834	15,926	8,611
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
1890.....	627	840	25,077	23,256	11,627
1891.....	612	866	23,678	23,871	12,433
1892.....	660	902	29,564	23,244	12,976
1893.....	718	997	34,417	28,706	14,180
1894.....	884	1,047	36,459	32,680	16,260
1895.....	982	1,093	44,932	35,371	19,516

In 1895 there were 761 school-houses in the province, of which 636 were frame, 38 brick, 16 stone and 71 log. The number of trees planted was 5,595.

1357. The school age is 5 to 16 years, inclusive, and from the above table it will be seen that the average attendance was 43 per cent, while the proportion of the population at school was 1 in 5.7. Figures such as these not only demonstrate the wonderful progress of the province during the last 20 years, but must effectually dissipate any ideas that intending settlers might have about the difficulty there would be in educating their children, and must convince them that life on the prairies does not mean life without the most important benefits of civilization. Collegiate departments for more advanced education are attached to the public schools at Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie and Brandon, and the total number of pupils enrolled during the year was 370, 80 and 167 respectively. There is also a Normal School in Winnipeg for the training of teachers.