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REPORT

OF

THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION

(ENGLAND AND WALES).

1890-91.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



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THE REPORT

OF

THE COMMITTEE OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL ON EDUCATION TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY IN COUNCIL,

For the Year 1890.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

WE, the Lords of the Committee of Your Majesty's Privy Council on Education, humbly submit to Your Majesty the following Report of the proceedings of the Education Department during the past year, for the promotion of elementary education among Your Majesty's subjects in England and Wales.

Elementary Schools.

On the 31st August 1890 there were 19,498 day schools under separate management on the list for inspection, and claiming annual grants.

It will be observed that some of these schools may have been inspected more than once, while others may not have been inspected at all, in the course of the year, in consequence of a change in the month fixed for the annual inspection.

These 19,498 schools contained 29,468 departments, under separate Head Teachers, with accommodation for 5,566,507 scholars; the number of scholars on the registers was 4,825,560, and the average number in attendance 3,732,327 (vide Table No. 1, Part II. of Appendix); but we shall continue to use for our report the figures given by the returns of the schools inspected (Table No. 1A), in order to maintain the comparison between this and former years.

Public Elementary Schools (Inspected).

In the year ending 31st August 1890 the Inspectors visited 19,419 day schools in England and Wales, to which annual grants were made, containing 29,339 departments under separate Head Teachers, and furnishing accommodation for 5,539,285 scholars. There were on the registers of these schools the names of 4,804,149 children, of whom—

1,513,729 were under 7 years of age;

3,098,036 between 7 and 13;

150,602 between 13 and 14; and

41,782 above 14.

Of these scholars 4,341,364 were present on the day of the inspector's visit to their respective schools, and 3,717,917 were, on an average, in daily attendance throughout the year. The number of scholars whose names had been on the school registers for the last 22 weeks of the school year was, in infant schools and classes, 1,284,381; in schools for older scholars, 2,867,037. The number of older scholars presented for examination in Standards I.—VII. was 2,596,100. Of these 1,977,574 passed the prescribed test without failure in any one of the three subjects, 94·55 (94·08) scholars out of every 100 examined passed in reading, 88·42 (87·71) in writing, and 86·02 (85·52) in arithmetic. The figures within brackets show the proportion who passed in the previous year.

While the increase of the population during the year is estimated at 1·35 per cent., the accommodation has increased by 98,844 school places (or 1·82 per cent.); the scholars on the registers by 48,314 (1·02 per cent.); the average attendance by 35,292 (·96 per cent.). The local effort which has resulted in this improvement may be measured by the continued support derived from voluntary contributions (758,670*l.* against 750,860*l.* last year), and by the contributions from rates to the maintenance of board schools, 1,320,487*l.* against 1,229,037*l.* The school pence have risen from 1,903,996*l.* to 1,940,546*l.*

The annual Government grants to elementary day schools rose in the year from 3,263,342*l.* to 3,326,177*l.*, or from 17*s.* 8½*d.* to 17*s.* 10¾*d.* per scholar in average attendance.

Night schools.

The night schools examined during the year were 1,173 in number; 43,347 scholars above 12 years of age were, on an average, in attendance each night; 51,269 scholars were qualified by attendance for examination. Of these, 39,392 were actually examined, and out of every 100 scholars so examined, 96·65 passed in reading, 83·34 in writing, and 58·18 in arithmetic. The additional subjects of examination were taken in 513 schools by 15,026 scholars, of whom 9,828 passed, 2,727 of them in two subjects.

Training Colleges.

Training colleges.

The inspectors found 46,539 certificated teachers at work in the aided schools which they visited, while the 44 training colleges, from which the supply of such teachers is mainly recruited, were attended in 1890 by 3,294 students. These students (with a few exceptions), and 3,713 acting teachers, were examined for certificates in December last. At Midsummer 1890, 6,941 candidates were examined for admission to the 1,674 vacancies declared in the training colleges, of whom 4,718 passed creditably, and 1,662 are now in their first year of residence, along with 1,648 students of the second year.