

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONERS OF SCHOOLS,
Halifax, N. S., November, 1883. }

TO DAVID ALLISON, ESQ., LL. D.,

Superintendent of Education for the Province of Nova Scotia:

SIR,—I have the honor to submit, for the information of the Council of Public Instruction, the Report of the Board of Commissioners of Schools for the City of Halifax for the School Year ending 31st October, 1883.

The total amount expended on the Schools by the Board during the year was \$71,981.01, viz., \$8,001.71 on account of the High School, and \$63,979.30 on account of the Common Schools. Of the \$8001.71 expended on the High School, (including property connected therewith,) \$5,486.24 was derived from the City Assessment for Schools, and the remainder, \$2,515.47, from fees of pupils, rents of properties, &c.

In the Common Schools 5,618 pupils were registered as in attendance during the year, being a slight increase over the number registered the previous year. The average cost per pupil was \$11.37, a lower rate, as will appear from the tables, than in any year since 1868.

The attendance at the primary departments of Albro Street and Russell Street Schools had so increased that it was found necessary to open additional departments. In the case of Albro Street, the pupils in the temporary department were, at the regular grading in November, absorbed into the other departments, and the department closed; while at Russell Street, the accommodation has taken the form of a permanent additional department.

The residents of Africville, a settlement of colored people in the extreme north of the city, having petitioned the Board for school privileges, a school was opened on 1st March, under a competent master, in an old building that answered its purpose during the summer months, but is quite unfit for winter use. A new building has therefore been erected by the Board, on a site given by the City Council, and is now nearly ready for occupation.

The usual Night Schools for boys, except that in connection with St. Mary's, were in operation the last winter, and were well attended.