

Features common to all Cantons.

- (a) That Inspectors are appointed for a limited term ;
- (b) Their jurisdiction over private as well as public schools ; and
- (c) The share which headmasters have in cantonal inspection.

Each canton has power to make regulations in respect of private schools as well as public ; and cantonal education is managed by a Board of Education.¹

CANTON BERNE.

I will now treat of one canton more in detail—Berne,² chosen as containing the capital, as the most populous,³ and as a fairly representative one.⁴

It is, naturally, outside the scope of a report, covering so large a subject as several national systems of education, to enter upon the technical minutiae of a particular school ;⁵ and, therefore, all that is here stated, especially in view of the authorities referred to which supply ample information, is the main impressions made upon me as the results of my visits to schools in Berne.

The visits were made in company with a gentleman connected with the Education Board, M. Berchten, with whom I saw examples of infant-, primary-, and secondary-schools. I noticed especially the—

Noteworthy
features of
Bernese schools.

- (a) Excellent discipline everywhere manifest,⁶ the
- (b) Thorough method in which all instruction seemed to be imparted, the
- (c) Searching manner in which scholars were tested in knowledge, their
- (d) Healthful-looking hardiness and vigour, and their
- (e) Neatness and general cleanly appearance.

Everything seemed done in accordance with strict discipline, and thoroughly.⁷

The buildings were commodious, playgrounds ample, and the fittings suitable for the purpose.⁸

Religious
exercises.

The schools visited were Protestant, where the religious exercises consisted principally of reading the Bible with comments ; but although Berne is a Protestant canton,⁹ Roman Catholic schools have also been established there by the school authorities.¹⁰

Any reformed pupils (*élèves réformés*) in the Roman Catholic schools, and Roman Catholic pupils (*élèves catholiques*) in the reformed schools, are relieved from frequenting religious teaching ; and so with children who do not belong to either of the two national confessions.¹¹

Subjects of
instruction.

The subjects of instruction are not the same in all cantons ;¹² but the Bernese courses, both in primary¹³ and secondary¹⁴ schools, are fairly illustrative.

It will be remembered that gymnastics is an obligatory subject everywhere in Switzerland.

Compulsory
attendance.

Attendance in the Canton Berne at the primary schools is compulsory from the day of the opening of the summer session of the year, in which by the 31st March a child

(d) *Règlement du Canton de Berne* du 5 janvier, 1871 ;

(e) *Règlement dans le Canton de Berne*, 15 décembre, 1882, and 15 mai, 1883 ; and

(f) *Règlement Berne* du 10 janvier, 1873, and ordonnance du 22 janvier, 1880.

Note duties of Inspectors—Mr. M. Arnold's exam. before R.E.C., 5689 ; and how they are chosen, 5694.

¹ See also B.L. rep., p. 131.

² For detailed information as to others, see Stat.

³ See Stat., p. 8.

⁴ For Zürich, see—

(a) R.C., vol. 1., pp. 18–21, 39, 126, 127, 186–191, 263–279, 292, 293 ; and

(b) S. and U.C., pp. 235–256. For satisfactory results the cantons which stand first are Bâle, Genève, Thurgau, Zürich, Vaud, &c.

For extracts from Aargau and Neuchâtel cantonal laws, see B.L. rep., pp. 504–516.

⁵ But see “Hours in a Swiss Class-room,” by an English Schoolmaster. Bickers and Son, London, 1870 (hereafter termed H.S.C.R.)

⁶ See also Mr. M. Arnold's evidence before R.E.C., espec. 5213.

⁷ See H.S.C.R.

⁸ See loi 11 mai, 1870, Berne, Art. 18, and règlement 5 janvier, 1871, Berne, Arts. 6 and 16.

For hints as to construction of school-desks, see I.E.C., vol. 13, p. 46 ; and see espec. Report of Commissioner of Ed. for the U.S.A., 1885, for 1883–84, p. 236.

⁹ See Stat., p. 8.

In Berne, in 1880, 463,163 Protestants ; 65,828 Roman Catholics.

¹⁰ In Lucerne, where the Roman Catholics prevail, “regular religious instruction is given to Catholic children in the school, and to the Protestants out of school, and out of school hours.”

¹¹ See also loi 11 mai, 1870, Art. 11.

¹² See—

(a) Stat.

(b) S. and U.C., pp. 235–256 ; and

(c) Pop. Ed. in France, see tabular statement at end of volume.

¹³ For details, see—

(a) Loi 11 mai, 1870, Art. 1 ;

(b) Plan d'enseignement 1878, and compare with N.Z. reg. *Gazette* 92, 1878 ; and

(c) *Infra* table.

Instruction in needlework in all the cantons is given either in primary schools, or in special schools for the purpose.

¹⁴ For details, see—

(a) Loi 26 juin, 1883, avec modification due 2 sep., 1867, Art. 11 ; and

(b) Plan d'études, 1879.

See also (a) R.C., vol. 1., pp. 19–21 ;

(b) Stat., pp. 41–55 ;

(c) H.S.C.R., and

(d) B.L. rep., pp. 513 and 514.