

*Main Features.*TABULAR STATEMENT CONCERNING BELGIAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS—*continued.*

| Classes of School.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | How supported.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Usual age of frequenting.                                                                                                                                 | Fees payable.                                                                                           | Instruction.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
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| (2) PRIMARY schools <sup>1</sup><br>(écoles primaires communales.)                                                                                                                                                                                                          | The<br>(a) Communes (primarily),<br>(b) Provinces (secondly),<br>(c) State, and<br>(d) Fees.<br>See loi 20 sept., 1884, art. 6.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 6-7 to 14, unless child goes to secondary school in first instance.                                                                                       | 50 centimes and 2fr. per month; but gratuitous for poor. <sup>2</sup><br>In some communes free schools. | Reading, writing, elements of arithmetic, legal system of weights and measures, elements of French, Flemish, or German language—according to the wants of localities—geography, history of Belgium, elements of drawing, notions of agriculture, <sup>3</sup> and, for girls, needlework. <sup>4</sup> Additional teaching may be added under certain circumstances. <sup>5</sup> Three courses, each of two years or more. But communes may place the moral and religious teaching at the head of the programme of all, or some, of their primary schools. This teaching must be given at the beginning or end of the other instruction. Children, whose parents request it, are to be excused from assisting. |
| (3) SECONDARY schools <sup>6</sup><br>(a) Higher elementary, or middle class (moyennes inférieures)—81 for boys, 36 for girls.<br>(b) Royal Atheneums <sup>7</sup> (Athénées royaux) 20 <sup>8</sup> all-day schools—although in some places boarding houses in connection. | The town, or commune, which is the seat of a Royal Athenæum, or of a secondary school (école moyenne), puts at the disposal of the Government a suitable school-house, provided with furniture in good condition; and the cost of repairs is to be supplied by the commune. The town, or commune, contributes besides to the expense of the school by an annual subscription, which need not exceed one-third of the expenses. The Government is authorized to contribute by subsidies to the cost of first establishment and purchase of the school furniture in the case of atheneum and secondary schools. | Entrance 6-7, if sent to preparatory school annexed; but otherwise 9-15, when not intended for higher schools.<br><br>Entrance examination.<br><br>11-18. | 25-60fr. per annum.<br><br>60-100fr. per annum.                                                         | Latin and Greek are not taught.<br><br>The instruction is divided into two branches:—<br>(a) Literary,<br>(b) Scientific or professional; in each of these there are seven classes. "No Latin is taught on the professional side." <sup>9</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

At least one in each commune in a suitable locality, loi 20 sept., 1884, art. 1, and see I.E.C., vol. 15., p. 301. See also R.C., vol. 1, pp. 25 and 515. Note remarks of M. Germain on "Objects of Primary Schools," I.E.C., vol. 14, p. 334. Drawing compulsory. See also I.E.C., vol. 14, p. 259, 271. Two or more communes may, when necessary, be allowed by the King to unite in founding or supporting a school, art. 1. Primary communal schools are managed by the communes. The Communal Councils determine the number of schools and teachers, art. 2.

<sup>2</sup> If parent goes to Burgomaster and says he cannot pay. See also R.C., vol. 1, p. 24.

<sup>3</sup> Note paper on "Music in Schools," I.E.C., vol. 13., pp. 467-480, and espec. 471.

<sup>4</sup> Paper by M. Germain, I.E.C., vol. 14, p. 334, also courses fixed by Government; see loi, art. 5.

"Cooking will henceforth be an obligatory subject in all the girls' schools of Brussels, by a recent decree of the Municipal Council. The course will be both practical and theoretical. The different subjects to be included are marketing, the relative nutritive

values of all articles of food, and the practical management of a kitchen."—"Journ. of Ed.," July, 1886, p. 297.

<sup>5</sup> See Circulaire, art. 5. For selection of books see loi, art. 6. This list of subjects has just been officially revised by the authorities, otherwise I should have forwarded the official documents herewith. See art. 4, loi 20 sept., 1884.

"In Holland, the law defines the subjects of primary instruction as follows: Reading, writing, and arithmetic; the elements of geometry, Dutch grammar, history, geography, natural sciences, and singing." See Mr. Bailey's paper as above.

But see note *re* religious instruction on preceding page.

<sup>6</sup> The Roman Catholics have numerous good primary and secondary schools—now subsidized. See also R.C., vol. 1, p. 26.

<sup>7</sup> These prepare for universities, and are under the more immediate care of State, and answer to English public schools, such as Eton or Harrow.

<sup>8</sup> Nineteen is minimum number. See also R.C., vol. 1, p. 25.

<sup>9</sup> See R.C., vol. 1, pp. 25, 26.