

—THE—

Illinois Woman's Alliance.

To the People of Chicago:

In order to convince the indifferent and incredulous public that the demands of the Alliance for more school buildings are justifiable, and are warranted by the deplorable condition of school matters, the undersigned have obtained from the records of the Board of Education the exact number of school sittings owned and rented by the city according to the report of the principals sent in June, 1892, also the exact number of children in the city between the ages of 6 and 14 years.

These we have classified according to the wards of the city so that the comparison between the number of children of school age and the school sittings provided for them may be in available shape to present for consideration to the representatives of the people, the Common Council.

As the number of pupils under 14 years attending the High Schools is more than balanced by the number over 14 attending the District Schools, it was deemed unnecessary to include the High Schools in this report.

The figures of the accompanying table tell a story of unpardonable neglect and unfaithfulness on the part of previous Boards of Education and City Councils. They explain why the compulsory law has never been enforced—children cannot be driven into schools which have no existence. They explain how it is that stores, factories and shops find so many surplus children ready to work for contemptibly small wages. They explain the presence of so many young boys at the Bridewell. They warn us of the army of ignorant men and women who will fill the city in the near future.

The table shows that there are but nine wards in which the school sittings exceed the number of children, and these are the wards where the wealthy live. It shows that in each of the 9th

and 14th wards the children exceed the school sittings by over 4,500; in the 19th and in the 30th by over 4,900; in the 15th by over 5,000, and in the 16th by 7,331. The total excess of children between 6 and 14 years in the city over the school sittings provided for them is 59,878, and remembering that many of the seats are occupied by children over 14 years, it will be safe to put the number at 60,000.

It is also apparent that the city rents 7,000 seats, or the equivalent of seven schools with a capacity of 1,000 seats each. When it is remembered that the school appropriations have been generous, this looks like bad management rather than poverty.

There are 356 half-day divisions, or about 14,340 pupils who are receiving but two-and-a-half hour's instruction per day.

Upon calling the attention of the members of the Board to these figures, we were told that we had not taken into account the private and parochial schools. It is our opinion that those schools should not be considered by the Board. Their business is to provide public schools, furnished with the newest and most effective aids to education, for all the children of the city, irrespective of the schools built as private enterprises. Experience has shown that wherever the public schools have been sufficient in number that private ones have only flourished spasmodically. The question of private schools does not concern the Alliance; we insist upon public schools being furnished for all the children of the community.

We also call to your notice the fact that no provision has been made for the 10,000 children who will be 6 years old by the opening of the next school year, September, 1893.

In conclusion, we wish to emphasize the number of school buildings needed. Allowing that each building should contain 1,000 seats, we find:

- 1st. The 7,000 rented rooms equal..... 7 Schools.
- 2d. The 356 half-day divisions means that there are
178 divisions which should be in 12 “
- 3d. To accommodate the 60,000 surplus Children..... 60 “
- 4th. To accommodate those who will be 6 by Sept., '93 10 “

Total..... 89 Schools.

Respectfully submitted,

CORINNE S. BROWN,
FLORENCE KELLEY.

COMPARISON BY WARDS.

Ward No.	SCHOOL SITTINGS.			Popul't'n bet 6 and 14.	Excess Children.	Excess Sittings.	Half-Day Division.
	Owued.	Rented.	Total.				
1	716	.....	716	814	90	.....	.....
2	2335	.....	2335	2045	.....	290	2
3	1915	.....	1915	3087	1172	.....	.....
4	5149	.....	5149	3694	.....	1455	4
5	3800	224	4024	7145	3121	.....	10
6	4649	50	4699	8186	3487	.....	18
7	5176	400	5576	7083	1507	.....	24
8	3153	.....	3153	6543	3390	.....	12
9	2845	330	3175	7675	4500	.....	10
10	5015	396	5411	9399	3988	.....	32
11	2609	.....	2609	4413	1804	.....	15
12	7259	552	7811	7241	.....	570	10
13	6016	81	6097	6220	123	.....	13
14	5190	321	5511	9030	4519	.....	38
15	4227	709	4936	10171	5135	.....	21
16	3074	.....	3074	10405	7331	.....	8
17	2441	.....	2441	3466	1025	.....	2
18	2345	.....	2345	2167	.....	178	.....
19	2579	.....	2579	7533	4954	.....	20
20	3213	.....	3213	4218	1005	.....	4
21	4309	175	4484	4394	.....	90	11
22	3437	.....	3437	4987	1550	.....	14
23	2190	.....	2190	4885	2695	.....	5
24	3339	.....	3339	2173	.....	1166	2
25	4087	498	4585	4516	.....	69	10
26	2926	605	3531	6495	2964	.....	16
27	2158	510	2668	2681	13	.....	4
28	1073	267	1340	2194	854	.....	1
29	5494	148	5642	5571	.....	71	6
30	5580	236	5816	10759	4943	.....	5
31	3921	452	4373	5287	914	.....	11
32	4291	.....	4291	4096	.....	195	10
33	3442	.....	3442	5222	1780	.....	6
34	3280	1047	4327	6317	1990	.....	12
Total,	123233	7001	130234	190112	.....	.....	356