

Canada Legislature by Governor Simcoe, on a despatch received from the Duke of Portland, a memorial was sent to the King, praying for the grant of a sufficient quantity of land to endow a Grammar School in each of the four districts into which the new province was divided, and a University for Upper Canada. The prayer of the memorial was granted; and 500,000 acres of land were set apart for the purposes specified. In 1798, President Russell requested his Executive Council, the judges and the law officers of the Crown, to submit to him a scheme of education for the Province. They did so; and recommended a sum of money to be granted for the erection of a school house at Kingston, and in the Newcastle District, for the accommodation of 100 pupils, with a residence for the master. They also recommended that a University be erected at York. The claims of Cornwall and Sandwich for a school were, in the mean time, to remain in abeyance. Nothing was done, however, except to bring out from Scotland, Mr. (now the Right Rev. Bishop) Strachan, as President of the proposed College. Before Mr. Strachan arrived, however, the project of the College was abandoned, Governor Simcoe went to England, and Dr. Strachan opened a school at Kingston and subsequently one at Cornwall.

In 1806, a temporary Act was passed, establishing a Public School in each of the eight districts into which Upper Canada was divided, and granting £100 per annum for each teacher. In 1807-8, this Act was made permanent.

In 1817, Common Schools were first established by law in Upper Canada.

In 1819, another District School was opened; and provision was first made for holding public examinations—for reporting on the condition of the schools to the Government and for educating ten Common School pupils as free scholars at each District School. The allowance of £100 was reduced to £50 wherever the number of pupils did not exceed ten.

In 1823, a Provincial Board of Education was established. In 1824 the germs of a library system were developed. Subsequently, and down to 1839, other steps of progress were made.

In 1839, the terms "District School" were changed to those of "Grammar School;" and £200 were offered to each District which would raise an equal amount for the erection of a Grammar School building. £100 were also offered for the establishment of a school in each of four towns (not nearer than six miles to the County Town) at which not less than sixty pupils were to be educated.

In 1853, the Grammar School Act was passed. To render the transition from an old to a new system more easy, many of the provisions of the former Grammar School Acts were