

A LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF NEW BRUNSWICK EDUCATION.

1802—1847.

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"Whatever concerns my country interests me."
—PETER FISHER, "Sketches of New Brunswick, 1825."
(Continued).

As early as 1774 we find that "At the recommendation of the Lieutenant-Governor and Corresponding Committee, Mr. Porter is appointed schoolmaster at Cumberland with the usual salary (£10), which is to commence with his entrance upon his duty."¹ This Society had been organized in the early eighteenth century under the auspices of the Church of England and was an evangelizing as well as an educating force in the early British colonies.

The course of study in the S. P. G. schools was not elaborate. The teachers were charged "to teach the scholars to read truly and distinctly, also to write a plain legible hand, in order to the fitting of them for useful employments; with as much arithmetic as shall be necessary for the same purpose."² The aim of instruction was mainly religious. The schoolmasters were obliged "to well consider the end for which they were employed by the Society," viz., instructing and disposing children to live and believe as Christians. They were therefore to take special care of the manners of their children, both in schools and out of them; warning them seriously of the vices to which children are most liable; teaching them to abhor lying and falsehood; to avoid all sorts of evil speaking; to love truth and honesty; to be modest, gentle, well-behaved; just and affable, and courteous."³

The school hours were long. One teacher writes that his school was open from six to one in the morning, from two to six in the afternoon during the summer, from eight to one and two to five in the winter.

From the lists in the S. P. G. reports during this period some twenty-five of these teachers had schools in New Brunswick. The list for 1,800 included:

Maugerville, William Simpson.....	£10
Frederickton.....	£10

¹Report of the S. P. G., 1774, p. 10.

²Raymond, Op. Cit., *EDU. REVIEW*, 1893, Feb., p. 17.

³*Ibid.*, p. 171.

Burton, Simeon Lugrien.....	£10
Kingston, Edward Finn.....	£10
St. Andrews, James Berry.....	£15
Gagetown, Samuel Morton.....	£10
Norton.....	£10
Sussex Vale, Jeremiah Regan.....	£10
Springfield, William Brasier Hayes....	£10
Westfield, Theodore Valteau.....	£ 6 ¹

The S. P. G. limited its educational efforts to Elementary Schools, resembling in this the schools of other religious bodies, namely, the Presbyterian Schools of Scotland, the Schools of the Dutch Reformed in Holland and the Lutheran Schools of Germany and Sweden. New Brunswick owes much to the pioneer school masters of this Society. They taught the schools of the province during the years when the settlers were too busy making homes to think of education, and the government unable to agree upon educational enactments.

CHAPTER II.

PARISH SCHOOL LEGISLATION 1802—1847.

Although His Majesty's Royal Instructions to Governor Carleton² had recommended "the Assembly to enter upon proper methods for the erecting and maintenance of schools, in order to the training of the youth to reading and necessary knowledge of the principles of religion"³; no educational provisions were passed by the Provincial Parliament until 1802. The first "School Law" of New Brunswick was most unpretentious, containing only the measures which had been proposed by the rejected educational item of the Appropriation Bill of 1793.⁴ Its form was simple, the plan of organization crude, the aid to each parish meagre, yet as the earliest educational enactment of the province the Act of 1802⁵ is worthy of consideration.

42 G. III, Cap. VI, Act of 1802.⁶

¹Taken from the S. P. G. Report of 1880.

²See Hannay's History of New Brunswick, Vol. I, p. 140.

³Copied from Dr. Raymond's "New Brunswick Schools of Olden Times," *EDU. REVIEW* (St. John) January, 1893, p. 150.

⁴See Ch. I of this paper.

⁵"It was the first act passed in New Brunswick for the establishment of common schools, and, although crude and imperfect, it marked a change in the feelings of the people toward education." Hannay's Op. Cit. p. 282.

⁶Copied from Dr. Raymond's Op. Cit. December, 1893, p. 114.