

## A LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF NEW BRUNSWICK EDUCATION.

1802 — 1847.

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[Continued.]

The Act of 1829<sup>1</sup> introduced a new measure regarding school houses. The law stated, "difficulties have frequently arisen from the school houses being the property of private individuals, as built on their land." To prevent such trouble it was enacted that, as far as possible in the future the school house was to be built on public land. An earlier act<sup>2</sup> enjoined that the school houses were to be built for the exclusive use of schools.

By the Act of 1837 the County Board of Education made up of three or more fit persons was to be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor for the licensing of teachers in their respective counties. By the Law of 1847 the County Boards were dispensed with; a Provincial Board of Education composed of the Lieutenant-Governor and members of the Executive Council, was constituted in their stead. This Board was to grant licenses to trained teachers upon the certificate of competency provided by one of the Training Schools of the province.

The Act of 1847 contained the provisions regarding free scholars; school property; local administration; reports of teachers, trustees and justices; together with Provincial grants to parish and counties, as they appeared in the Act of 1837. Marked advancement appeared in the requirements regarding teachers. They were to be trained as well as licensed; they were classified according to attainments; their salaries were apportioned according to their class of license; a written contract stating the length of the teacher's agreement was drawn up and respected by both teacher and trustees. The main purpose of this Act was to produce a uniform system of instruction throughout the province. This was obtained by a system of instruction outlined by the Provincial Board of Education; a uniform system of prescribed textbooks, trained teachers, and provincial inspection by two appointed inspectors. The Law of 1847 is but the logical outcome of the tendencies which had

been working throughout the period. The legislation from the earliest act which held the justices accountable for the use of school money to the Act of 1847, which introduced explicitly the idea of a uniform provincial system of schools had ever tended toward the centralization of provincial control. That the idea of control was present is proven by the necessity of the teachers reporting to the trustees; the trustees to the justices; and the justices to the Lieutenant-Governor and Council.

### CHAPTER IV.

#### GRAMMAR SCHOOL LEGISLATION, 1802-1847.

Legislation concerned with the establishment and administration of grammar schools is quite distinct and separate from that regarding parish schools. We have already noticed the interest and anxiety of the early Loyalists that an Academy be established. Like many other early colonists their first interest was the establishment of an institution of secondary instruction. The Academy at Fredericton, established in 1786, really did nothing but secondary work until 1827, when it, by Royal Charter, became King's College.

The earliest enactment was that of 1805,<sup>1</sup> which provided for the establishment of a Grammar School in the city of St. John. There was to be a Board of nine Directors appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor, which included the Mayor and Recorder of the city, while the rector of Trinity Church was to be President of the Board. This school was to receive an annual apportionment of £100 from the province, and a gift of £100 to aid in erecting a building. The further enactments, concerned with the administration and general routine of the school, resembled so closely those of the general Act of 1816, that the discussion of the two acts may be combined. The former act was passed on March 5, 1805. The St. John Board of Directors became concerned immediately with the needs of the school. After some dispute a site was procured and the building of the school house begun. The school was opened on June 1, 1805, by Mr. Jennison, who agreed to provide rooms in which to keep the school until May 1, 1806. He was to receive £100 from the Board

<sup>1</sup>9 & 10 G. IV, Cap. XXII, sec. 4.

<sup>2</sup>4 G. IV, Cap. XXV, sec. 3, (1823).

<sup>1</sup>45 G. III, Cap. XII, secs 1-8, grammar schools, St. John, secs 9-13, parish schools.