

inces. Toward the furtherance of this object, the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick legislatures appointed commissions to confer on the subject. That of Prince Edward Island declined to do so, preferring the establishment of an institution for itself. The commissioners met in St. John on July 15th, 1845. After a full discussion of the matter they expressed the unanimous opinion that the difficulties attending the foundation of a joint institution were so numerous that they would not be justified in recommending such a course.

At the next session of the House of Assembly, held in 1846, a committee was appointed, to which was referred the question of the erection of a provincial asylum. Their report was to the effect that the accommodation in the temporary asylum was utterly insufficient, and that means should be immediately adopted to provide an institution commensurate with the requirements of the province.

After consideration of this report, the House voted £2500 toward the erection of an asylum for New Brunswick alone, under the direction of commissioners to be appointed by the governor in council, upon a suitable site near St. John. The building commissioners were selected by the governor, but nothing further was done that year as the government failed to approve of the plans submitted by the commissioners.

By an act passed the ensuing year, the legislature appropriated an additional sum of £10,000 for building (in all £12,500) and also £2000 for the purchase of land. The commissioners were by the same act authorized to procure a site and enter into contracts for the erection of a building.

The designs prepared, having been approved of by the government, ground was broken in September, 1846, on a plot of land, forty acres in extent, situated in the parish of Lancaster, less than a mile outside of St. John.

On June 24th, 1847, the corner-stone of the building was laid with masonic honors.

By the autumn of 1848 a portion of the building was so far advanced that on December 12th of that year it was opened by the transfer to it of the ninety patients then resident in the temporary asylum at St. John. The operation of the institution, the legal title of which was, as it still remains, the Provincial Lunatic Asylum, was begun under Dr. Peters, medical superintendent.