

the school master should be a member of the Church of England, you are not to grant said licenses except to persons who shall first have obtained from the Bishop of Nova Scotia, or one of his commissaries, a certificate of their being properly qualified for that purpose."

The first act which made provision for government aid to parish schools, was passed in 1802. The sum granted by law was only £420, being ten pounds to each of the forty-two parishes then existing; the grant to be expended in the maintenance of such schools as were already established, and to assist in establishing others in places where as yet there were none. The expenditure of the money was entrusted to the justices of the peace for the several counties.

As an illustration of the way in which new schools were established, the following petition found by Dr. W. F. Ganong, among some old Charlotte County documents, is of interest.

*"Petition for School License*—To his Excellency Sir Archibald Campbell, G. C. B., Lieutenant Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Provinces of New Brunswick, etc., etc., etc.

The Petition of Margaret Johnston, of the Parish of Pennfield, in the County of Charlotte, humbly sheweth:

That the Petitioner is a member of the Established Church, and a native of Ireland, from which several years since she emigrated to this County:

That the great distance of the place in which she at present resides from any school, induces your Petitioner to devote her time and attention to the instruction of the children of the district, for which she thinks herself duly qualified; and that she may do so agreeably to the law in that case made and provided, she humbly requests your Excellency to grant her a license to teach school in this Province, and as in duty bound she will every pray, etc.

Pennfield, N. B., 9th July, 1833."

The above petition was endorsed by the trustees of schools for the Parish of Pennfield, in the following terms:

"We think it expedient that there should be a Female School established in the District where the Petitioner, Margaret Johnston, now lives, and we believe her to be sufficiently qualified for conducting the same: We therefore beg to recommend the prayer of the Petitioner to your Excellency's favorable consideration."

For at least thirty years subsequent to the establishment of the province of New Brunswick, the number of schools was very small. As late as the year 1815, we find the annual grant for the encouragement and support of parish schools in the whole province was only £375; and it is doubtful if there were at that time more than forty schools outside of the city of St. John. During the next fifteen years, there was a very considerable improvement, due in a large measure to the act passed by the legislature in

1816, a synopsis of which has been already given. In order to carry out the provisions of that act, the House of Assembly in 1817 voted the sum of £3,000 for the encouragement and support of schools, a notable advance as compared with the annual appropriation of about £375 under the former act. The money was expended under the ninth section of the act which provided that when a school house had been built and a master appointed in any town or parish, and money to the amount of £30 raised by the people, there should be granted to the school from the province treasury the sum of £20 per annum.

The passage of the act was the signal for an era of school house building all over the province. In many instances, special grants were voted by the House of Assembly for the completion of these buildings. The journals of the House of Assembly for more than twenty-five years from this date, contain numerous petitions for aid towards building or completing school houses. Many of these were favorably considered, more were not.

The provisions of the Act of 1816, were slightly modified in the Act of 1823, which fixed the amount of the government grant at £20, the people to raise at least a like sum, and no town or parish to receive a larger sum than £100 for one year. In order to draw the grant for a school, the trustees had to certify that a school house had actually been built or provided by the inhabitants of the district, and £20 raised and paid for the support of the same, and that a proper person duly licensed as by His Majesty's royal instructions required, had been appointed to teach, and had kept the said school twelve months.

Five years after the passage of this Act, the House of Assembly appointed a committee consisting of W. Crane, Alex. Rankine, Thos. Wyer, E. B. Chandler, and John W. Weldon, to report on the condition of the schools. The report of these gentlemen, submitted March 14th, 1828, contains the following paragraph: "The committee have had under their consideration the operation of the Act for the encouragement of parish schools, and have much pleasure in stating that from information received from every part of this province, it appears that very great and lasting benefits have been derived from the operations of the said Act, and they have therefore prepared a Bill to continue and amend the same which they beg leave respectfully to submit for the consideration of this house."

The stimulus given to the cause of education, both elementary and advanced, through the laudable efforts of Governor Smyth and his successor, Sir Howard Douglas, aroused much interest in the subject, and