

of interest in education throughout the Province owing to the introduction of the Madras or National Schools. The Madras Schools were so called because of having been first conducted at Madras by their founder Rev. Dr. Bell. The first of these famous and excellent schools in America was opened at Halifax in 1816. The system spread rapidly and by 1819 there were Madras Schools at Sussex, Fredericton, Kingston, Gaagetown and St. John. The first teachers in Sussex under this system were Joseph R. Legget and his wife, who in 1819, had in school at Sussex 30 boys and 33 girls. On the best authority available Mr. Leggett's school was on property now owned by Sylvester Ryan some three miles northeast of Sussex town. It drew pupils from a very wide area and was in operation as late as 1852.

The Madras Schools were placed under the supervision of the rector of the parish. The poorer children were admitted free of charge and in some cases had free school books provided for them. The schools were not unlike some of the famous schools of England. The principle of emulation was given free play and when a boy became competent classes were given to him for discipline and instruction. The fees paid by pupils were supplemented by grants both from the Government and the S. P. G.

**1865.**—As time passed—it would seem in about 1855,—a school was opened at Sussex Corner and from 1854 to 1859 there is known to have been a school in operation near the present site of Trinity church. Gradually, however, with Mr. Leggett's school evidently closed, and Sussex Corner, the chief centre of population, the Sussex Corner school took pre-eminence—a place which it continued to hold for many years. It was here that Mr. John Raymond was master, and in this school that Mr. C. R. Palmer who was assisted by Misses Davis and Humphrey taught from 1864 to 1870. Owing to its general excellence, Mr. Palmer's school made a wide appeal, and up to at least 1865, many pupils from what is now the town were in attendance at Sussex Corner. Therefore while the Railway was opened in 1859, and while school classes seem to have been held in various buildings in what is now Sussex it was not, as near as can be ascertained, until 1865 that a school building was erected in the precincts of the town. This building stood almost opposite the new brick structure on land now owned by Mrs. David Aiton.