

This act of 1818 was not entirely reprehensible since it increased the maximum provincial grant from £60 to £100 for each parish, giving as its reason "that it had been found necessary to increase the number of schools in some of the larger towns and parishes."¹ The sum of £20 continued to be the largest grant allowed to any one school.

The necessity of making reports was extended by an act passed in 1823 to the Justices of the General Sessions. They were required to incorporate the reports rendered by the trustees of the several parishes into a general report for the county. A certain form was prepared for this purpose.² The grant from the provincial treasury could only be secured by making such report to the Lieutenant Governor. This act was, with the exception of the above provision, practically a reprint of the act of 1816 and its amendment, (1818). The law of 1823 was continued by two subsequent enactments to 1833.³

The Lieutenant Governor, Sir Howard Douglas,⁴ in his speech to the House in 1828, referred to the condition of schools in the province, and a committee was appointed to make an investigation and report on this matter. The section of this report, dealing with parish schools, spoke most encouragingly. "The committee have also 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 town in this province, it appears that very great and lasting benefits have been derived from operation of the said Act, and they have therefore prepared a Bill⁵ to continue and amend the same, which they beg leave, respectfully, to submit to the consideration of the House."⁶

The Act of 1823 was amended by an Act passed in 1829.⁷ By the latter Act the trustees were

empowered to admit any number of free scholars, "being the children of indigent parents."¹ The Justices "are hereby authorized, if they think proper, to appoint a committee of two or more persons to inspect parish schools, in their respective counties and if necessary, to report the state of the same to the Lieutenant Governor."²

The power of displacing the teacher "for misconduct or neglect" was extended to the trustees by Section 2 of this Act. The conditions of such procedure must be reported to the Lieutenant Governor by the way of the Justices. Another new measure proposed by this law was instigated by the difficulties which "have frequently arisen from school houses being the property of private individuals as built on their land." This Section enacted "that the Justices of the Peace and the Trustees shall endeavor to cause the school houses to be built on the public ground of any county or on property conveyed to the Justices who are to receive conveyance of the same, and that no school house shall be removed from one part of the parish to another part without the order of the Justices."³

Female teachers were first mentioned in the Act of 1833. Section 4 of this Act⁴ provided for a difference not only in the parish salary but in the provincial grant for men and women. A man was to receive from the legislature £20 for twelve months or £10 for six months, while a woman was to receive £10 for twelve months, £5 for six months. The above sums were stated as the least that a parish could give for the support of the teacher. A provision was also included in this Act whereby the inhabitants of the parish might provide "board, washing and lodging," in lieu of the share of the salary to be raised by the town. This pernicious clause persisted in the legislation for some years after the end of the period under consideration. By this Act the teacher was required to send a semi-annual report,⁵ to the Justices of the Peace, who, in turn, were accountable to the Lieutenant Governor.

An important journal enactment⁶ regarding schools was passed in 1837. It was amend-

¹Ibid. Sect. 1 and 2.

²4 G. IV, Cap. XXV, Sect. 4. See Part II, No. IV (1).

³9 Geo. IV, Cap. XXX (1828) to 1830. 1 Wm. IV, Cap. XXX (1831) to 1835.

⁴Sir Howard Douglas (1823-31) and his predecessor, Gen. Geo. Stracey Smyth, 1812-1823, were keenly interested in educational matters in the province.

⁵Referred to above, 9 Geo. IV, Cap. XXX (1828) only a continuation of the Act, 4 Geo. IV, Cap. XXV (1823).

⁶Jour. of the House of Assembly, 1828, p. 89. (Mar. 14).

⁷10 Geo. IV, Cap. XXII, Act, etc., of New Brunswick, 1829, Lugrien.

¹Ibid., Sect. 3.

²Ibid., Sect. 6.

³Ibid., Sect. 4.

⁴3 Wm. IV, Cap. XXXI, Acts, etc., of New Brunswick, 1833.

⁵Ibid., Sect. 3.

⁶7 Wm. IV, Cap. 8, Act, etc., of New Brunswick, 1837.