

A LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF NEW BRUNSWICK EDUCATION.

1802 — 1847.

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(Continued.)

These gentlemen made a valuable report of their labors, which was submitted to the Assembly in the fall of the year. From this report it appears, that in 1844-5 there were some 500 schools in the province, having an enrolled attendance of 15,924 pupils.¹ Upon receiving the report made by the above commission, the Assembly recommended to its Educational Committee, of which the Hon. L. A. Wilmot was chairman, to prepare the draft of a bill concurring with the view expressed by this governmental inspection. This bill, together with the report of the inspectors, was printed in a pamphlet and circulated through the province during the recess.² When presenting this draft-bill Mr. Wilmot said, "The Committee are deeply impressed with the importance of this subject and hope that the legislature will be prepared at the next session to adopt such improvements in the present system as will carry with them the approbation and support of the country, and at the same time, to ensure those educational advantages, which are in great measure denied by the present defective system."³

The last general provision for parish schools during this period was passed in 1847.⁴ Not only does it recapitulate the best enactments of the period, but it includes certain new measures which are a forecast of the subsequent legislation which provided for an improved system of schools throughout the province. This Act provided that His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor and the members of the Executive Council were to constitute a Board of Education⁵ having power to establish Provincial Training and Model Schools,⁶

¹T. H. Rand, History of New Brunswick Education, 1802-1877. An address given before the Teacher's Institute 1877. "Educational Circular" 1877.

²Jour. of the House of Assembly, 1845, p. 342.

³Ibid., p. 342.

⁴10 Vic., Cap. 56, Act, etc., 1847. See Part II, No. II (5) of this paper.

⁵Ibid., Sect. 3.

⁶Jour. of the House of Assembly, 1845, p. 25. We find that in 1841 and 42, the Lieut. Governor had had correspondence with Her Majesty's Government on the proposal of forming a Model and Training School for the teachers of parish schools in this province.

to appoint two school inspectors for the province and to establish agencies in different parts of the province for the sale of school books. The members of the Board of Education were empowered to appoint a secretary of the Board with a salary of £100 a year. John Gregory was appointed to fill this office. Two Training Schools were established, one in Fredericton, of which Marshal D'Avary was appointed master, and one in St. John under the control of Edmund H. Duval. The Board of Education were empowered "to make, sanction, require and enforce the system of instruction" also to "select and determine the set of books and apparatus to be used" in the schools of the province. The teachers were also required to use prescribed forms for registering and reporting the general routine of their schools. The prescribed books and apparatus were to be provided by a large sum set apart for that purpose by the legislature and to "be placed in charge of certain persons to be appointed for that purpose in the respective counties within the province, and sold for the use of such schools at prices fixed by the Board of Education."¹ These booksellers were required to report annually concerning the books received and sold by them.

Trained teachers were classified according to their attainments. "Teachers of the lowest class shall be qualified to teach reading, writing, spelling and arithmetic of whole numbers, including simple interest and the combination of rules called 'Practice.'" Teachers of the Second Class shall be qualified to teach spelling, writing, arithmetic, reading, English grammar, geography and book-keeping; teachers of the highest class shall be qualified to teach spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, English grammar, bookkeeping, natural philosophy, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, mensuration, land survey and navigation."² Teachers of these classes were to receive provincial aid varying with their class of license, at the rate of £18 for a third class teacher for one year, £22 for a second class teacher, and £30 for a first class teacher. The grant to a licensed untrained teacher was to continue to be £20 for one year. These teachers were to be allowed to continue in service for a limited period only. As an inducement that the licensed but untrained teachers of the province might avail themselves of the advan-

¹Ibid., Sect. 16. ²Ibid., Sect. 11.