

## **The Origin of Free Schools in Nova Scotia.**

---

**F**REE SCHOOLS were tried in Nova Scotia as early as 1840. The teacher's salary and other funds needed for the upkeep of the school were raised by voluntary subscription on condition that the school should be free to all children within the section. While the experiment was fairly successful in some places, this way of bringing about the desired end was found ill-suited to the greater part of the Province. People who had no children to educate were slow to believe that they had any personal interest in the school, and so they thought it unreasonable that they should be asked to pay for its support. Indeed there were many parents who regarded the school as one of the things which they could very well do without. And thus it was shown that the free school could flourish only when it had behind it the imperative school tax. It is true that at different times in the early history of Nova Scotia higher conceptions of the value of general education were entertained by leaders in public affairs and