

passed providing that a town should be surveyed and laid out within the reservation theretofore made for the site of a town in the townships of London and Westminster in the county of Middlesex, and that in the said plan a place of not less than four acres should be designated so reserved for the purposes of a goal and court house. Commissioners were appointed to erect a suitable building of brick or stone, and to raise the money necessary; justices in sessions were authorized and required to levy an additional rate of one-third of a penny in the pound, until the loan of £4,000 which the Commissioners were authorized to make was discharged, principal and interest. In 1827 the justices of the district of Gore were authorized to borrow 4,000 pounds on the credit of the district. In the same year commissioners were appointed to erect a goal and court house in the Eastern district, and to borrow 4,000 pounds on the credit of the district, and the magistrates were authorized to levy an additional rate of one half-penny in the pound until the debt was discharged. Authority to increase the rate of taxation was seldom granted, probably was seldom sought. When authority was given in 1830 to the justices of the Eastern district to borrow 3,500 pounds to be expended by commissioners in building a goal and court house at Cornwall, and in 1831 the magistrates of the Newcastle district were authorized to spend 6,000 pounds on a goal and court house, and to borrow 2,500 pounds of this amount on the credit of the district, and when in the same year the county of Prince Edward was erected into a separate district, and the building of a goal and court house at Picton was authorized, no addition to the rate of taxation was permitted; but in 1835, the justices were authorized to levy an additional one half-penny in the pound for three years. In 1837, the county of Oxford was erected into a district named Brock, and the justices were authorized to borrow 6,000 pounds to build a goal and court house at Woodstock, under supervision of a committee of their own body, but no increase in the rate of taxation was permitted. In the same year the county of Hastings, the county of Simcoe, and the county of Norfolk (by the name of the district of Talbot) were erected in separate districts under similar conditions. In all cases the rate of interest on the loans so authorized was not to exceed six per cent.

It was not until the work of organization had made considerable progress that any attempt was made to establish a school system, and the first attempts were very feeble. In 1807 an Act was passed, authorizing the payment out of any money raised by authority of Parliament of 800 pounds a year for the establishment of public schools. One public school was to be established in every district; the places at which the schools should be kept were named—Sandwich, Niagara, York, Kingston, such place in the township of Hamilton, such place in the township of Augusta, and such place in the township of Townsend as the trustees may think fit. The Lieut-Governor was to name the trustees in each district, and they were to select the teacher. Who was to receive a salary of 100 pounds, by Lieut-Governor's warrant. The trustees of London district reported that they could find no pupils in Townsend, and in 1808 they were authorized to select a place for the school as they thought best. A society was formed in England "for providing the education for the poor in Upper and Lower Canada," and in 1815 an Act was passed authorizing the subscribers to meet in Kingston, organize by electing a president, secretary, treasurer and six trustees, who should be a body politic, under the name of the "Midland District School Society," with all the usual powers. It was provided that no person should be teacher or trustee who was not a British subject.

In 1806 an Act was passed to establish common schools. The preamble declared that it would be "conducive to the happiness of the inhabitants and general prosperity of the Province to encourage the education of youth in common

schools." It was provided that 6,000 pounds should be paid annually out of the Provincial Treasury for this purpose. This amount was to be divided amongst the districts as the act prescribed. The Act provided that the inhabitants of any township, village, or place might meet and make arrangements for establishing a school, and when they had built or provided a school-house, engaged to furnish at least twenty scholars, and provided in part for the payment of a teacher they might after due notice elect three trustees, who should have power to employ a teacher and make rules for the government of the school. All engagements made by the parties getting up the school might be enforced by law. A Board of Education, consisting of not less than five members was to be appointed for each district by the Lieut-Governor. To these the trustees should report once in three months. The trustees had power to superintend the schools of the district, and were required to report annually to the Governor for the information of the Legislature. They were also to apportion amongst the schools the money granted for their district, provided that no allowance to any school should exceed 25 pound a year, and that no allowance should be made where the trustees did not report to the Board. This may fairly be considered the foundation of our common school system.

In 1819 a district school was established in Gore, and it was provided that an annual public examination should be held in all such schools; that the trustees of district schools should make an annual report to the Lieut-Governor; that the teacher should receive no more than 50 pound from the treasury if in any case he had not more than ten scholars; and that in order "to extend the benefit of a liberal education to promising children of the poorer inhabitants, the trustees of each school should have the power of sending scholars, not exceeding ten in number, to be taught gratis at the respective district schools." 6,000 pounds was found to be more than the Province could afford to pay for the support of the common schools, and 1820 the amount was reduced to 2,500, which was "to be equally portioned to the teachers of the several common schools," provided that no more than 12 pounds 10 shillings be paid to any teacher.

In 1823 a district school was established in the district of Ottawa, to be kept at Longueuil, in the county of Prescott. It was found necessary in the same year to pass a special Act providing for the payment of arrears due for the support of the common schools in the Niagara district, some of the money apportioned to that district having been misappropriated.

In 1824, as the preamble to the Act declared, it would "greatly tend to advance the happiness of society to disseminate moral and religious instruction amongst the people," it was enacted that for the benefit of all classes of His Majesty's subjects, and for the encouragement of Sunday schools, and for affording the means of moral and religious instruction to the more indigent and remote settlements, there should be paid annually an additional sum of 150 pounds, which the Provincial Board should expend in purchasing books and tracts to be distributed amongst the district Boards, and by them to be distributed for the use and encouragement of Sunday schools and for the benefit of remote and indigent settlements. This act extended the benefits of the common school system to Indians and a share in the distribution of books. It is also provided that no teacher should receive any of the Provincial grant until he had undergone an examination before the District Board, and had obtained from it or at least one member of it, a certificate of competency. In 1830 subscriptions having been raised, an Act was passed "to incorporate the trustees of the Grantham Academy," in the district of Niagara.