

A LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF NEW BRUNSWICK EDUCATION.

1802 — 1847.

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[Continued.]

Such certificates were necessary before each half-yearly apportionment was made.¹ The final section of this Act affirmed that the trustees were accountable to the legislature.

An amendment of this Act was passed in 1823,² which increased the yearly apportionment to £175. The method of half-yearly certificates and payments was still continued. In the Act 9 and 10 Geo. IV, Cap. XXIX, (1829), sixteen sections were concerned with making "new provisions for the establishment and support of Grammar Schools throughout the Province." This Act repealed the Act of 1816, but retained many of its provisions. Only two new measures appeared in this Act. The first required that the counties should raise £50 before they were eligible to receive the Provincial grant which had again dropped to £100. This was to be paid as previously, upon receiving the half-yearly certificate of the trustees. This Act affirmed that no part of the £50 to be raised by the inhabitants of any county "in aid and support of any Grammar School shall be borne or paid by the Master and Ushers of such School."³ The second measure enacted by this Law was that "from and after January 1, 1830, no beneficed clergyman of the Established Church, or ministers of any other sect, or denomination of Christians, having spiritual charge of any Parish or Congregation, shall be eligible or be appointed Master or Usher of any Grammar School in any of the said last mentioned Counties."⁴

These county grammar schools do not seem to have given entire satisfaction. In the report of the School Investigating Committee of 1828, we read that it appeared to them "from facts which had come under their own observation and from the information they had received from respectable persons residing in different parts of this province, that the very liberal grants of money appropriated and paid by the legislature in support of grammar schools in this province had not produced that beneficial effect which was expected to result from these establishments."⁵

In the "Debates of the House" for 1837-8, a great discussion ensued when the "usual appropriation for grammar schools" was moved. One member, during the discussion, said that "the Parish School grants were always almost unanimously made and those for grammar schools were passed with much difficulty." He gave as the reason that "the former had given almost universal satisfaction and the latter had not."¹ With the feeling of their inefficiency was voiced, as well, the old criticism that the grammar school "offered facilities to the rich and wealthy only."² These schools were considered only as stepping-stones to the college. The necessity of more complete method of reports from grammar schools was the paramount idea of this discussion.

Despite all this feeling of dissatisfaction no new general provision was passed until 1846. It was then enacted "that it shall be the duty of the master of every such grammar school to keep a true and correct register of the names and ages of the several scholars, and to daily mark therein the presence or absence of each scholar, as the same may be, and furnish the trustees of such a grammar school, semi-annually, with a true copy of the same, and also with a return pointing out the number and daily attendance with the several branches of education taught to each scholar."³ The trustees were also required "to examine and inspect the grammar schools at least once in every six months and to make a report "which shall set forth the master's name, age, religious profession and whether married or single; . . . the books and apparatus used in the school; . . . branches of education actually taught; . . . the size, fitness and condition of the school building and mode of discipline; . . . the manner of teaching the several branches of education; . . . the general state and condition of such school with other such information as may be necessary and proper."⁴ The trustees were also required "to submit semi-annually to the office of the Provincial Secretary all such registers, returns and reports for the information of the government and for inspection and examination of the General Assembly."⁵ This section continued, "If it shall at any time appear from such

¹ G. IV, Cap. II. (1823)

² Secs. 15, 16, Ibid.

³ Jour. of the House of Assembly, 1828, p. 89.

⁴ Ibid., sec. 8.

⁵ Ibid., sec. 17.

¹ Debates of the House of Assembly, 1837-38, p. 27.

² Ibid., p. 58.

³ Vic., Cap. LX., sec. 3. See Part II, No. III, (2).

⁴ Ibid., sec. 4.

⁵ Ibid., sec. 5.