

In 1876, a considerable modification of the School Law took place in the new Act passed in that year relating to cities and towns. From this amended Act of 1876, the prosperity of the National School system in Manitoba may be said to have sprung. It enabled the cities and towns to establish good schools, and thus acted beneficially on all the schools of the Province. Provision was made of a more perfect kind by this Act for the issue of debentures by school districts, thus enabling them to erect suitable school buildings. The Acts have been amended and extended in the years 1882, 1883, and 1884, but the Act of 1876 was the virtual establishment of the present form of school provision.

III. PRESENT ORGANIZATION.

Each section of the Board of Education has a chief officer for the administration of its schools. Such chief officers must be members of the Board of Education. This Board now consists of twelve Protestants and nine Catholics, but these two sections act in almost all matters independently. Their only joint function of importance is to make regulations for registering and reporting daily attendance at the schools. The members of the Board selected from the two sections as chief officers are chosen by the Government, and appointed by the Governor-in-Council. Their duties are to act as Secretaries to the Board, and each individually to their own section; to call school meetings if necessary; to see that the law is carried out by trustees and teachers; to supervise the inspectors; to explain the law; collect and tabulate statistics; and to report to the Government. The chief officer of the Protestant schools is called "Superintendent of the Protestant Schools."

The Board of Education is the supreme authority in public school education. The Superintendents are regarded as the executive officers of the Board, and each is bound in everything to carry out the directions of his section.

As already stated, the Governor-in-Council appoints the Board, with its two sections; one third of each section retires every year, and the Government appoints their successors. The functions of the Board, as given in the first Act of 1871, are very much those of the Board at present. The Protestant schools are super-