

Free Schools in Nova Scotia

tions were thus left without schools, or they were provided by the old method of voluntary subscriptions. The law was denounced as tyrannical and unjust. Dr. Tupper's government lost popular favor and there is little doubt that this hostility to the tax was transferred to the measure for Confederation of the Provinces which shortly afterwards came to the front.

It was thought advisable to give the recalcitrant sections a chance for amending their ways. Accordingly the Legislature passed an Act authorizing the Inspectors in the various counties to call a special meeting in those sections during the month of April—where necessary—to make provision for a school during the second term. The Inspector was instructed to appoint these meetings at such dates as would enable him to be present. It was no holiday time—this month of April. Certainly not for some of them. In one of the western counties, out of about one hundred sections only twelve had fully organized under the law. Two or even three meetings a day failed to complete the work. The results? Well,