

Schools and Religion.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM OF NOVA SCOTIA.

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In 1832 the province was divided into School Commissioners' Districts, averaging the territorial size of half the larger counties, the members of the various Boards acting gratuitously, and the schools being organized on the voluntary system. In 1835 the attendance of pupils was 15,000. About 1850, the present Sir John William Dawson was appointed the first Superintendent of Education for the province, and when he accepted the principalship of McGill University in 1855, the Provincial Normal School was opened under the charge of the Rev. Alexander Forrester, D.D., who was at the same time Superintendent of Education. In 1863 the school attendance was 31,000.

The free school system was introduced into the legislature and passed in 1864, under the leadership of the present Sir Charles Tupper, the late Sir Adams G. Archibald being leader of the opposition, which also supported the measure. While the Rev. Dr. Forrester remained principal of the Normal School, one of his staff, the present Dr. Theodore Rand, of MacMaster University, became the Superintendent to administer the new order of things. In 1869 he was succeeded by the Rev. A. S. Hunt, M.A., who, on his death, in 1877, was succeeded by David M. Allison, LL.D., of Mount Allison University, who was in turn succeeded by the present incumbent in 1891.

The Council of Public Instruction is the head of the educational system, is endowed with extensive powers, and is constituted of the members of the Executive of the Provincial Government, with the Superintendent of Education as secretary.

The Superintendent has practically the same functions to discharge as a Minister of Education, with the exception of