

of contributing to make teaching an art, it only tended to fill the teachers' ranks with incompetent, indigent and in too many cases, immoral men. Hence the failure.

In 1847 these acts were all repealed and another substituted, which provided for a Provincial Board of education, composed of the Governor and Executive Council; the establishment of a training school at Fredericton, where teachers were to attend for the space of ten weeks, to receive instruction in the art of teaching, each candidate to receive ten shillings per week during this stay towards defraying the expenses thus incurred; trained teachers, to be classed by the Board according to their qualifications: First class teachers to receive 30*l.*; the second 22*l.*; and the third 18*l.* per annum; the sum of 1000*l.* was granted for the purpose of providing books, apparatus, etc., for the use of parish Schools; and the trustees had the same powers as conferred by former acts—except that of examining the literary qualifications of teachers—but no pay: hence they neglected the duties.

This act gave way for another in 1852, which provided, first, for the appointment of a provincial superintendent of education, who was to act as secretary to the Board, with a salary of 250*l.* per annum; second, a local inspector for each county; third, provision for the voluntary adoption of the assessment principle, allowing twenty-five per cent. extra to the teachers of the schools adopting it—teacher's salaries remaining as under last law; fourth, the establishment of a training school at Saint John, with male and female instructors; fifth, teachers of the lowest class could obtain authority to teach from the superintendent on producing a certificate from the local inspector.

In 1854, one section of this law was repealed, and another substituted, providing that the salaries of teachers be as follows:—

MALE TEACHERS.

1st class . . .	£37 10 0	per ann.
2nd " . . .	30 0 0	"
3rd " . . .	22 10 0	"

FEMALE TEACHERS.

1st class . . .	£27 10 0	per ann.
2nd " . . .	22 10 0	"
3rd " . . .	17 10 0	"

The partial failure of these several en-

actments to advance public instruction, may be attributed in a measure to their ineffective provisions; the want of energy on the part of the guardians of youth; the onerous duties imposed upon trustees without remuneration; and the general negligence on the part of those officers who were paid for their services.

However, among the good things partially secured by these laws, were,—the classification of teachers; the increase and uniformity of school books; increased remuneration of teachers; and a more full annual report of the state of the schools throughout the province.

The year 1858, has produced the repeal of all former laws, and the substitution of another which is less efficient and more expensive in its administration than any former law; and the prevailing opinion of the public mind is becoming more fully inclined for its repeal also, and the substitution of a law, abolishing the present inspectorship, and giving trustees and county boards the management of the schools, with pay for services.

As we have in former numbers of the *Parish School Advocate*, given our views of the present inadequate and costly educational system, we defer further remarks for the present.

The following statistics are extracted from the superintendent's report for 1857:—

The total number of school districts is set down at 1,120; school houses, 938; schools in operation during the year, 812: but 892 are reported as having been in operation for longer or shorter periods in the year. The number of pupils in attendance is 30,000, which would show an average attendance at each school of 37 nearly. Of the school houses, 575 are reported as in good condition; 230 are supplied with maps and black boards; 89 with maps only; 245 with black boards only; leaving 437 destitute of all such school apparatus. The number of school houses erected during the year is 44, of which 35 are framed houses.

The number of teachers employed during the year has been 952; of whom 566 hold third class licenses; and 216 only, of whom 130 were females, had first class licenses. The total amount expended for parish school education in 1857, was 38,637*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.*, of which 21,043*l.* was drawn from the treasury.