

QUEBEC.

Under the old French *regime* much attention was given to the subject of public instruction in Canada. The first school in Canada was opened at Three Rivers in the year 1616, by Father Pacifique Duplessis, a Franciscan. In 1618 there was another school opened at Tadoussac, under Father Joseph Le Caron, of the same order. In 1632 the Jesuits opened a school at Quebec, which became a great and flourishing college. Mgr. De Laval founded the Seminary at Quebec in 1663. The Franciscans had a good many elementary schools for boys, and the Jesuits supported, out of their revenues, several lay teachers, who were mostly old pupils of their college. The two orders having been suppressed after the conquest, there were, for a long time, scarcely any schools save the two seminaries at Quebec and Montreal, the convents of the Ursulines at Quebec and Three Rivers, and the schools of the Congregation of Notre Dame, at some of the villages throughout the country. Lord Dorchester, Governor of the old Province of Quebec, appointed a commission in 1787 to inquire into the subject of education. A report recommending the establishment of elementary schools was made, but no further action was taken at the time. In 1801 the Royal Institution for the Advancement of Learning was created, but the Board being composed of men with whom the mass of the people had no sympathy, and the teachers being, for the most part, without any knowledge of the French language, it was a complete failure. It had only 37 schools and 1048 pupils after an existence of twenty years, reaching, as a maximum, about 80 schools and some 3,500 pupils. In 1824 an Act was passed providing for the establishment of elementary schools, one in each Parish. In 1829 an Act was passed providing for the election of school trustees, the payment of teachers, and the erection of school-houses, under certain conditions. Several wise enactments for collecting statistics, distribution of prize-books, visiting schools, the erection of a Normal School, &c., followed; but, the provision for the maintenance of the Common Schools having been allowed to fall through during the constitutional troubles of 1837 and following years, the system, which had been gradually developing itself, was destroyed. At the time this calamity befel the Province there were 1,600 schools in operation wherein 40,000 children were taught. Most of these schools had to be closed.

The Legislature of the United Provinces passed a law in 1841 for the establishment and maintenance of public schools. It appropriated a sum of \$200,000 for the support of Common Schools, and provided for the appointment of a Superintendent of Education for the whole Province. Hon. Mr. Jamieson was the first incumbent of this office, but, to meet the wants of the two sections, Rev. Mr. Murray and Dr. Meilleur were also appointed Superintendents. In 1851 a law was passed providing for the establishment of a Normal School, and for the appointment of School Inspectors. Dr. Meilleur labored with great assiduity and perseverance in the discharge of his difficult duties, and the general principles of the school system of the Province are due to him. He resigned his position in 1855, and was succeeded by the Hon. Pierre J. O. Chauveau, who had represented the County of Quebec in the House of Assembly for eleven years, and had filled successively the offices of Solicitor-General and Provincial Secretary. In 1867, upon the establishment of the present system of Government, Mr. Chauveau, being called upon to form a Ministry, returned to public life, and was elected to both the Local and Dominion Parliaments by his old constituency. He preferred retaining the control of the Education Department, and accordingly chose the title of Minister of Public Instruction in conjunction with that of Premier.

The School Acts of 1856 embody various reforms and improvements recommended by Mr. Chauveau. Among these were the appointment of a Council of Public Instruction, the publication of a French and English *Journal of Education*, the creation of three Normal Schools instead of one, as also of a pension fund for teachers, and the placing the disposal of all public grants for educational purposes in the hands of the Superintendent.

For statistical purposes the educational institutions of Quebec are divided into Superior, Secondary, Normal, Special and Primary Schools. The first division comprises the Universities, and Schools of Theology, Law and Medicine. The second, Classical Colleges, Industrial Colleges, and Academies. Under the head of special come the Deaf and Dumb Asylums, the Agricultural Colleges, and the Board of Arts and Manufactures. Lastly, under Primary, we find all Elementary and Model Schools (under the control of School Commissioners and Dissentient Trustees), as well as Private Schools. Adopting this classification, the following table will show the divisions into which they fall:—

DIVISIONS.	No. of Schools.	No. of Teachers.	No. of Scholars.
Superior Schools.....	10	74	663
Secondary ".....	227	1,173	33,428
Normal ".....	3	26	233
Special ".....	5	29	412
Primary ".....	3,468	3,603	173,294
Total.....	3,713	4,905	208,030

The next table will show, at a glance, the progress which has taken place in education, in Quebec, since the year 1860:—

	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.
Schools....	3,204	3,345	3,501	3,552	3,604	3,706	3,826	3,712
Scholars....	172,155	180,845	188,635	193,131	196,739	202,648	206,820	208,030
Amt. raised	\$503,859	\$526,219	\$542,728	\$564,810	\$593,964	\$597,448	\$647,067	\$728,494