

cap. 33 made all Common Schools free, to be supported by Provincial grants and local taxes, and has made the education of children compulsory on parents and guardians. (See Year Book for 1874, p. 133.) The large change, even under the old law from fee-supported to free schools indicated by the above figures is noteworthy.

Besides the Universities, Colleges, Collegiate Institutes, High Schools, and Public or (Common) Schools, arrangements are being made to establish in Toronto a School of Technology, and a Provincial Model Farm with a School or College of Agriculture.

QUEBEC.

In this Province we have no later published report than that for 1869-70. The progress made since the last article in the Year Book is shown as follows:—

	1867	1868	1869
Common Schools and other Educational Institutions	3712	3913	3912
Pupils	208,030	212,838	214,498
Contributions for all purposes	\$728,494	\$792,819	\$:91,857

To this has to be added the Provincial Grant amounting to over \$180,000 and making the total expenditure in 1869 upon schools etc. under government inspection or management, over \$1,075,000. There were 284 students in the then normal schools against 217 in 1868 and 219 in 1867. Altogether these have issued 83 diplomas to teachers of academies, 539 to teachers of model schools, and 731 to teachers of common or elementary schools—in all 1346 in 12 years. In the Universities and several colleges as well as the normal schools, lectures on agriculture are given, and two schools of agriculture have been in operation. Some of the colleges, notably that of Masson at Terrebonne, have devoted a large part of their resources to complete courses of instruction in commercial pursuits; and academies for the purpose have been founded by the Commissioners in Montreal and Quebec. Schools of Design &c. are in operation in those cities, and a Model Farm with school of agriculture is in course of preparation and organization. A technological school is attached to McGill University and others are in contemplation.

Altogether the progress in both the larger Provinces, seems to be rather in improving the schools and extending their usefulness, than in gathering in a greater proportion of pupils to the population. The limits attainable under the voluntary system seems to have been well-nigh reached; and the results of the experiment in Ontario of the compulsory system have not yet been ascertained.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

In New Brunswick a new School Act was passed in 1871 (see Year Book for 1872 pp 155 & 6.) By it the School Trustees of each district are bound to provide school accommodation for all persons therein, between the ages of 5 and 20, free of charge. Arrangements can only be made with existing schools upon condition that they make them free, and

bring them under the authority of the Act and regulations. In addition to the Provincial grant, a tax is levied in each county equal to 30 cents per head, and a local tax sufficient for the purpose of carrying out the law—including a poll tax of \$1 per head—is raised by the localities. Serious objection has been raised to this law by the Roman Catholic population, who desire to use their own taxes for schools under their own management, and not subject to the government inspection, examination of teachers, regulations respecting text books &c. A question has been raised indeed as to this Act, of some political importance. The Imperial B. N. A. Act of 1867, provided that “nothing in any such (Provincial) law shall prejudicially affect any Right or Privilege with respect to Denominational schools which any class of persons have by law in the province at the Union,” and that “where in any Province a system of separate or Dissident schools exists by law at the Union, or is thereafter established by the Legislature of the Province an appeal shall lie to the Governor General in Council from any Act or decision of any Provincial authority affecting any right or privilege of the Protestant or Roman Catholic minority of the Queen’s subjects in relation to education.” In New Brunswick schools under R. C. ecclesiastical and other control had received portions of the Government grants &c. for educational purposes; but they had never been recognized in any legislation as having a separate and distinct legal status. Upon appeal the Governor General in Council (upon the report of the Minister of Justice) decided that they were not, for that reason, within the purview of the constitutional guarantees above stated, and the case has since been carried to the Privy Council in Britain, in accordance with a resolution of the House of Commons of Canada.

The regulations since adopted have, perhaps, made the feeling of the minority stronger on the subject. One of these (No. 20) provides that “symbols or emblems, distinctive of any national or other society, political party or religious organization, shall not be exhibited or employed in the school room, either in its general arrangements or exercises, or on the person of any teacher or pupil;” and No. 21 provides that “It shall be the privilege of every teacher to open and close the daily exercises of the school by reading a portion of Scripture (out of the Common or Douay version, as he may prefer,) and by offering the Lord’s prayer. Any other prayer may be used by permission of the Board of Trustees. But no teacher may compel any pupil to be present at these exercises against the wish of his parent or guardian, expressed in writing to the Board of Trustees.”

But, as in Ontario, the effects of the new law are not yet seen in the statistics before us,—the last report published being that for 1871:

The Rev. Mr. Rand, formerly of Nova Scotia, has succeeded Mr. Bennet as Provincial Superintendent.

Parish Schools in operation in 1870; winter term, 825; summer term, 838—Do. 1871 do. do. 872; do. do. 898.

Pupils Registered 1870; winter term, 30,693; summer do. 33,627—1871; winter term 32,025; summer do. 33,297.

Proportion of population in school 1871; winter 1 in 8-92; summer 1 in 8-59.

The average attendance was, in winter,