

society to reimburse it. In 1780 an Act was passed for the establishment of a public grammar school in Halifax. In 1811 an abortive attempt was made by the Legislature to lay the foundation of a general educational system. In 1820 a more elaborate Educational Act was passed, the grants under it in the first year amounting to £2,500. In 1832 the total grant in aid of education was £4,000. In 1841 the provincial grant was increased to £6,000, and a Central Board established to give uniformity to the operations of the Boards of Commissioners. Further modifications were introduced in 1845, when the aggregate legislative grant was raised to £11,700. The Act of 1850 provided for a superintendent of education, the first to receive the appointment being a native of Nova Scotia, J. W. Dawson, now Sir William Dawson. In 1854 the Provincial Normal School was established. In 1864, under the guidance of Hon. Charles Tupper (now Sir Charles, Bart.), the Legislature laid the foundations of the present Public School system. At the ensuing session in 1865 the province led the way among all the Colonies of the British Empire in making local assessment for the support of schools the necessary basis for their legal recognition. In 1857 the province (first of all the Colonies of the Empire) voted an appropriation (£1,000) in support of a deaf and dumb institution. Nova Scotia has four universities: 1st, King's College, founded in 1788 and incorporated in 1802 by Royal Charter; 2nd, Dalhousie College, founded by Earl Dalhousie in 1821, its original endowment being derived from funds collected at the Port of Castine, in the State of Maine, during its occupancy by Sir John Sherbrooke, then Lieut.-Governor of Nova Scotia; 3rd, Acadia College, and 4th, St. Francis Xavier College.

1346. There were 2,305 schools in the province in 1895; the number of pupils enrolled was 100,555, and the average attendance 54,006, the latter having been 65 per cent of the number registered, as compared with 62 per cent in 1894. Attendance at the public schools of children between the ages of 7 and 12 is by law compulsory, but the regulation is not strictly enforced. The total number of teachers employed was 2,399.

The proportion of the population enrolled in the public schools, based on the estimated population of the province in 1895, was 1 in 4.5.

1347. The total Government expenditure for public school education during 1895 was \$238,760; the county fund amounted to \$119,900, and the sectional assessments to \$153,144, the three amounts making a total expenditure of \$811,804.

The census returns for 1891 showed that there were in Nova Scotia 570 persons who were deaf and dumb. Of these 255 were females and 315 males. Of the females 10 were blind as well as deaf and dumb, and 23 were insane as well as being deaf mutes. Of the males 18 were blind as well as deaf and dumb, 28 were insane as well as being deaf mutes.

Thus, of those afflicted with deaf mutism about 14 per cent were afflicted with blindness or insanity. Four per cent of the female deaf mutes were also blind, and nine per cent were insane as well as being deaf and dumb. Of the males 5.7 per cent were blind as well as being deaf mutes, and 9 per cent were insane in addition to being deaf and dumb.