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## EDUCATION IN P. E. ISLAND

### Growth Traced to the Present Time

#### WHAT HAD TO BE DONE IN AN EDUCATIONAL WAY

##### In What is Sometimes Termed the Good Old Days.

For two long centuries after its discovery, from 1479 to 1700, Prince Edward Island lay untenanted except by the aboriginal Indians and a stray European who may have acquired their language or cultivated their friendship. It is, however, from the year 1715, or two years after the treaty of Utrecht, that the Island may be regarded as a settled country. The first to settle in the country were Acadians, and these subsisted by fishing and the cultivation of small patches of ground. Progress was slow, for in 1728 there were only sixty families on the Island; and in 1745, or thirty years after the settlement began, they did not exceed 150 families, or about 800 souls. A French officer who visited the Island in 1752 reckoned the whole population to be 1354. The expulsion of the Acadians from Nova Scotia in 1755 tended greatly to increase the population of the Island, as many of the fugitives settled here. On the surrender of Prince Edward Island to the British three years later the number of inhabitants was over 6000. Shortly after this a panic seemed to have seized the inhabitants; they dreaded a forcible expulsion like their brethren in Acadia; cultivation was abandoned, and many of the people went to the mainland as a place of greater safety. When Mr. Patterson arrived in 1700 as the first Governor of P. E. Island as a separate province there were not more than 150 families. At the beginning of the present century the population was about 5,000. In Charlottetown there were only fifty families, or between 250 and 360 persons.

It will be remarked that up to 1800, A. D., the population of the Island was very unsteady, and to a great degree was migratory. Consequently very little progress was made, and education received very little attention. In August, 1767, the island was divided into townships or lots, and granted to individuals having claims upon the British Government, each township to furnish a glebe lot of 100 acres for a clergyman and a lot of 30 acres for a schoolmaster. No schoolmaster, coming from England, was permitted to teach without a license from the Bishop of London; and it was assumed in his instructions that all Christians, save those connected with the Church of England, were heterodox. Some denominations were, indeed, tolerated, but, in conformity to the bigoted policy of the times, Roman Catholics were not permitted to settle on the Island. In 1834 the Legislature petitioned the King to allow that body to appropriate to the support of education the clergy reserves and the school lands, as it was impossible to dispose of them according to the original intention. In the following year an act was passed by the Legislature authorizing the sale of the lands and appropriating the moneys arising from the sales for the purpose of promoting general education within the Island.

In 1821 education began to receive some of the attention it deserved, and in that year an institution called the National School was opened in Charlottetown. In 1829 the Legislature passed a bill for the establishment of a classical academy in Charlottetown, to be designated the Central Academy, vesting the management in a patron and nine trustees. Two teachers were to be employed, each to receive a salary of £150 a year, and no religious test was to be permitted. In January, 1836, the academy was opened, the Rev. Charles Lloyd and Mr. Alex. Brown being the first teachers. Mr. Lloyd soon retired, owing to ill health, and was succeeded by Rev. James Waddell, of Truro, Nova Scotia. In 1843 provision was made for the employment of an additional teacher. The academy henceforth was conducted with great vigor and success and grew into a very valuable educational institution.

The Act of Parliament of 1830 authorized a Board of Education of five persons. The Board was required to meet every three months. Shortly after the passing of the Act the appointments were made. According to the provisions of our present School Act the Board of Education consists of nine members, being composed of the members of the Executive Council, the Principal of Prince of Wales College and Normal School, and the Chief Superintendent of Education for the Province. The Provincial Teachers' Association are endeavoring to secure direct representation on the Board. Such representation would facilitate a frequent interchange of views upon matters which the teachers as a body might desire to bring under the notice of the Executive, and would bring the members of the Government into more direct contact with the teaching force. In 1837 the first official Inspector of Schools for the province was appointed in the person of Mr. John McNeill, formerly Chief Clerk in the House of Assembly. He held the situation of Inspector for ten years, during which time he effected much improvement. In 1837 there were 52 schools and 1,649 scholars. The schools received from the revenue £3,000, a sum less than \$10,000. When Mr. McNeill vacated the position in 1847 there were about 125 schools and over 5,000 scholars. His

first report was published in October, 1837, and gave a graphic description of the educational condition of the country at that time. I will quote some passages from the report:

"Though various laws have been enacted from time to time by the Legislature of this Island for the regulation of schools, and considerable sums of money have been appropriated for their encouragement, I regret to have to state from recent personal observations that the system of instruction pursued in many of the country schools throughout the Island is extremely defective, and consequently but little really useful and substantial knowledge is acquired by the children attending them.

"This appears to me to arise from several causes, some of these perhaps unavoidable in a new country like this. In many of the settlements the inhabitants are poor, and, having to struggle with numerous difficulties in procuring the means of subsistence for their families, the education of their children is with them a matter of mere secondary consideration. And even when they turn their attention to this important object they are not (generally speaking) scrupulous in the selection of their teachers, satisfying themselves with the common idea that it is better to have any teacher than none at all.

"The little encouragement which is in most cases held out to teachers of character and qualifications—and the precarious manner in which their salaries are paid—operate most powerfully as a bar in the way of the advancement of education. Hence it too often happens that it is only persons of shipwrecked character and blasted prospects in life, after every other resource has failed them, who take up the important office of schoolmaster, and hence always the frequent changing of the teacher; the long lapse of time that takes place after the expiration of the engagement of the old, before a new one is appointed, in consequence of which the children nearly forget what they had previously acquired.

"The migratory character of the school, or the shifting of them from place to place, has, in my opinion, another injurious effect upon the progress of education. From this cause it happens that after the children have made considerable proficiency their career is stopped all at once by the removal of the school to another part of the district, where the population has recently become more dense, and then the former locality is completely deserted, the settlers immediately around it being unable, without the co-operation of their more distant neighbors, to secure the continuance of the school.

"I must also mention another practice which is too prevalent in the country, and which I conceive to be exceedingly injurious to the respectability of the teacher in the eyes of the pupil, and consequently hurtful to his usefulness—that is, receiving his board by going from house to house, in which case he is regarded, both by parents and children, as little better than a common menial; and from the familiarity which must necessarily subsist between himself and the family he cannot exercise that authority over his pupils which is indispensably necessary for a teacher to maintain.

"At East Point, King's County, is a school taught by a competent teacher, John Slattery, in which I met with the only Latin scholars taught in any school on the Island."

At this period the schools were supported by voluntary contributions, aided by partial assessments and Legislative grants. In 1833 there were 74 schools and 2176 scholars. In 1841 the schools numbered 121 and the scholars 4356. By the report of 1851 the number of schools had increased to 135 with a total enrolment of 5366. At this time there were three school inspectors, one for each county, viz. John McNeill for Queen's County, John Arbuckle for Prince County, and John Ross for King's County. In October, 1863, John M. Starke, was appointed visitor of schools for the whole Island. He was a graduate of Stowe's Normal School, Glasgow, Scotland. In 1856 there were in operation 268 schools, attended by 11,000 scholars. So the number of both schools and scholars had almost doubled during the six years, 1850-1856. Governor B. Sherman, in opening the session of 1852, stated that he had much pleasure in visiting many parts of the Island, but that he observed with regret the educational deficiency which still existed. An act for the encouragement of education and to raise funds for that purpose, by imposing an additional assessment on land, was passed. This act was called the Free Education Act and formed the basis of the present educational system of the province, which has conferred such a great blessing on the country. At the beginning of 1839 the school visitor, Mr. John McNeill, addressed a lengthy memorial to the Board of Education showing the great necessity of a Normal School for the Island. On October 1st, 1856, a Normal School for the training of candidates for the teaching profession was opened at Charlottetown by

Governor Daly in presence of a large assemblage. Several interesting addresses were delivered. Inspector Starke's remarks in reference to moral instruction in schools gave rise to a great agitation of the propriety of biblical instruction in the schools, and resulted in his early resignation of the office of Inspector of Schools. The Bible question was brought before the Legislature during the sessions of 1857 and 1858 by numerous signed petitions asking that the use of the Bible in all the Public Schools be authorized by law. The prayer of the petitioners was rejected by the House of Assembly on both occasions.

During the session of 1860 several Acts were passed relating to education. One provided for an additional teacher in the Normal School; another declared the introduction of the Bible into the Public Schools to be legally authorized, while another provided for the establishment of Prince of Wales College. In 1879 the College was amalgamated with the Provincial Normal School. All the public teachers receive their education here. The curriculum includes Latin, Greek, French, English Language and Literature, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Agriculture and Agricultural Chemistry, Natural History, Ancient and Modern History, Bookkeeping and the principles and practices of teaching. This institution has an excellent staff of teachers under the principalship of Alex. Anderson, L. L. D., a thorough disciplinarian and a teacher of much ability. A new college building is being erected and will be completed by New Years. Last session there were 233 students attending old P. W. C. On December 13th, 1859, there died a man who always took a deep interest in promoting education, the Right Rev. B. D. McDonald.

He established many district schools, also a convent where young ladies receive a superior education. In 1855 he opened St. Dunstan's College, now one of our leading educational institutions, and the only one in the province which confers degrees. It is affiliated with Laval University.

In 1863 some changes were made in the Education Act, the reduction of the teachers' pay from the treasury by £15 and the introduction of the Grammar Schools. The fifteen pounds deducted from the teachers' treasury allowance was required, by the amended Act, to be made up by each school district, and the amount had to be guaranteed by the school trustees to the teacher in a written agreement in order to enable him to receive his treasury allowance, so that according to the new law every school district that would not raise at least fifteen pounds for the teacher was to get no aid for its school from the treasury. But this arrangement proved unpopular and had to be abandoned in 1867, and the whole of the teachers' salary made payable from the Provincial Treasury.

In 1877 a new School Law was passed which dealt successfully with the delicate and difficult problem of our school question. This law is now admitted by all classes and creeds to be well adapted to the wants of a mixed community like ours. The success of the new School Law is very clearly shown by the fact that within the first eighteen months of its operation the attendance of pupils at the public schools increased over five thousand. West Kent Street, Charlottetown, the Summerside, (Continued on page 7.)

#### A VANCOUVER LADY

Cured of Asthma After Eight Years of Almost Constant Suffering—She Says the Absolute Freedom From the Disease Seems Like a Dream—Clarke's Kola Compound Cures.

Mrs. J. Wise, Mt. Pleasant, Vancouver, B. C. writes: "I have been a great sufferer from bronchial asthma for the past eight years, many times having to sit up nearly all night. Through the advice of a friend who had been cured by Clarke's Kola Compound I resolved as a last resort to try it. The first bottle did not relieve me much, but before I had finished the third bottle the attacks ceased altogether, and during the past six months of damp and cold weather have not had a single attack. It seems something like a dream to be free from this worst of all diseases after so many years of suffering. I have since my recovery recommended this remedy to others suffering as I was, and know many others in this city whom it has cured. I consider it a marvelous remedy, and would urge any person suffering from this disease to try it."

Three bottles are guaranteed to cure. A free sample bottle of Clarke's Kola Compound will be sent to any person who has asthma, mentioning this paper. Address the Griffiths & Macpherson Co., sole Canadian agents, 121 Church-street, Toronto, Ont. Clarke's Kola Compound should not be confounded with the other Kola preparations on the market, as this is altogether a different preparation, designated especially for the cure of asthma. All druggists, Price \$2.00 per bottle.

Sold by Geo E Hughes.

#### Ch'town Steam Navigation Co LIMITED.

HALIFAX, N. S. EXHIBITION.

From Ch'town via, Pictou, Sept 22 to 28 inclusive, good to return not later than October 2nd for the round trip, \$5.00. On Monday, 25th September, good to return on the 27th; and on Wednesday, 27th, good to return on the 29th, for the round trip, \$2.25.

Sept 21— F. W. HALES, Secretary

#### To the Patrons of the P. E. I. Electric Co.,

We are now placing in our station another boiler of 250 horse power, and we respectfully ask all our customers to use the lights as sparingly as they possibly can for a few days, until this boiler is in position.

P. E. I. ELECTRIC CO.

222-dj51

## Black Bass



NAVY CHEWING  
TOBACCO  
SUCCULENT AND TASTY  
NO OTHER  
HEAVY GRADE TOBACCO  
IS SO PURE  
AND FRAGRANT  
ASK YOUR TOBACCONIST FOR IT

## Tea Talk

Quality  
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(At the tea tables) Oh! Mrs. Oldham this is lovely Tea where did you get it? At Sanderson & Co's. Of course I always get my tea good there

Economical housewives consult their best interests by buying tea at

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## THE WEEK'S GROCERIES...

Perhaps you would like to get a little more for what you spend.

Perhaps you would like to have everything fresh and nice.

If you will try my store I think you will find that your money will go farther.

And all the groceries you get will be good and fresh.

JOHN McKENNA.  
QUEEN ST. GROCER

Pullets  
EGGS  
Wanted  
NOW.

For the next four months the demand will be large. Get your pullets to laying by October. A well-filled egg basket now is what makes poultry pay. You can obtain these much desired results by good care, proper foods, and the use as directed in the morning mash of

Sheridan's Powder.

It causes perfect assimilation of the food elements needed to form eggs in the winter.

If you can't get the Powder send to us. One pack 25 cts; five, \$1.20; large can, \$1.50; six, \$2.00. Exp. paid. A. S. JOHNSON & CO., Boston, Mass.

## -GRAND- Display of... New Clothing

We are now in a position to show you one of the finest lines of ready-to-wear clothing ever shown in the city. Consists of men's, boy's and children's overcoats, men's, boy's and children's reefers, men's boys' and children's ulsters, men's, boy's and children's odd pants

## Fit- Reform

See those goods, they are all tailor made.

Suits \$10, 12, 15, 18, & 20  
O'coats \$10, 12, 15, 18, 20  
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## For Workingmen —TWO SNAPS—

A good double breasted fall suit for \$3.75

A good blue fall and winter suit for \$3.75

## PROWSE .....BROS

The Wonderful Cheap Men

We are now placing in our station another boiler of 250 horse power, and we respectfully ask all our customers to use the lights as sparingly as they possibly can for a few days, until this boiler is in position.

P. E. I. ELECTRIC CO.

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