

# EDUCATION IN NEWFOUNDLAND.

BY INSPECTOR G. J. McCORMAC.

Newfoundland is a part of British America; but it is not included in the Dominion of Canada. It is about twice as large as Nova Scotia, having an area of 42,000 square miles. It is triangular in shape, but the coast line is deeply indented with many bays and harbours. The surface is hilly and the soil is not well adapted for agriculture. There are many lakes, rivers and marshes. The climate is cold and severe. The country is rich in minerals especially copper, iron, coal and lead, but the people live mainly by the fisheries. The principal varieties of fish caught are cod, herring, lobster and salmon. The population is estimated at 202,000 and are chiefly the descendants of the settlers who came from Britain. The original race, called Beothicks or Red Indians, has been extinct for many years. The form of government is the same as in the Canadian provinces, consisting of a Governor appointed by the Crown, an Executive Council of seven members, a Legislative Council of fifteen members, and a Legislative Assembly of thirty-six members, elected by the people. St. John's, (30,000) is the capital and chief seaport. It possesses one of the best harbors in the world. Harbor Grace, Carbonear, Twillingate, Bonavista, Trinity and Heart's Content are important towns.

Newfoundland is said to have been discovered by John Cabot, on June 24th, 1497, and called by him Prince Vista. It was formally taken possession of by Sir Humphrey Gilbert in 1583. For many years the Island was regarded merely as a fishing station and it was not until 1813 that land grants were first made. As late as 1811 no one was permitted to build a dwelling house on the Island without special license.

The first school established in Newfoundland was started at Bonavista in 1726. In 1744 a school was established in St. John's; and in 1766 one at Harbor Grace. These as well as thirteen other schools were founded by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. This Society had control of education until the establishment of the Newfoundland School Society in 1825. It is said that the S. F. G. spent \$375 annually in its schools. It paid the teachers' salaries, usually £15 to £20 each, supplied the school with books and apparatus and established libraries. A fee of a quintal of fish for each child in attendance was collected at every school. The schools were in session during the summer months for twelve hours per day.

During the first quarter of the century the population increased from 25,000

to 75,000. The Newfoundland School Society was founded through the efforts of Mr. Samuel Codner, Devonshire trader. Its headquarters was in London England. The Home Government gave grants of land for school purposes, free passages from England on ships open to teachers, and pecuniary assistance towards the erection of school-houses and the payment of teachers' salaries. In 1824, the Society opened its first school, and at the end of eighteen years, when the First Education Act was passed, it had 60 schools in operation. This society still exists and today has 21 schools employing 24 teachers and having an attendance of over 2000 pupils.

In 1832 a representative government was granted to Newfoundland and in 1836 the Assembly passed its first Education Act. This act made provision for the division of the Island into nine educational districts and the appointing of a Board of Education of twelve persons for each district to spend the appropriations. Out of the grant of £2100, £600 were paid in equal proportions to the Newfoundland School Society and to the Roman Catholics towards the support of schools then established.

In 1843 a new act was passed by which the education grant, £5100, was divided equally between Protestants and Roman Catholics and the Island divided into eighteen Roman Catholic and eighteen Protestant Districts, and a Board of Education appointed for each district to spend its allocation of the grant. Provision was made for the appointment of an inspector at a salary of £300 sterling per annum.

This act remained in force until 1851 when an act was passed increasing the grant to £7500 and creating two Central Boards of Education, one for Roman Catholics and one for Protestants. Local Boards were appointed to act under instructions from the Central Boards. To each of the Central Boards was allotted £2400 of the grant. However, in the next year power was given to the boards to administer the whole of their respective grants. This method did not prove very satisfactory and in 1853 the Island was divided into 23 districts and local boards appointed to spend the appropriation. £580 was in this year voted for the establishment of nine commercial schools in local centres.

In 1850 the grant was increased to £10,525 and divided between Protestants and Roman Catholics according to their respective numbers. £1000 was allotted for commercial schools which then numbered fifteen, £750 for the training of teachers and £400 for the inspection of schools. This law continued until 1875 when the present system of education came into force and the grant divided among all the religious denominations of the colony.

So the present school system of Newfoundland is purely denominational. Three school inspectors were appointed in 1874 one each for the church of England, Methodist and Roman Catholic schools. The inspection of the other denominations are undertaken by the Protestant Inspectors year about.

The Island is divided into districts. A Board of Education for each district is appointed by the Governor in Council. The resident Clergyman is always a member of the board. It is the duty of these boards to manage and expend all monies appropriated for educational purposes in its respective districts and to publish yearly audited accounts of income and expenditure to the people's superintendent. The salary of each superintendent is \$1620. He has to pay his own travelling expenses, office rent, etc. out of this amount.

The superintendent is ex officio Chairman of the Board of Examiners appointed to grant certificates of qualification to teachers. There are no Normal schools in the Island, so the teachers receive their training at the various colleges. Each male teacher in training is allowed by Government \$100 per annum, and each female teacher \$80 per annum towards defraying their college expenses. Examinations are held at stated periods and certificates granted. There are three grades of certificates, I, II, and III.

The average salaries paid male teachers of the first grade are C. of E. \$434.96, Methodist, \$391.95, R. C. \$264.00; teachers of second grade, C. of E. \$274.09, Methodist, \$281.75, R. C. \$202.00; teachers of third grade C. of E. \$198.96, Methodist \$247.57 R. C. \$166.00. The average salaries paid female teachers of the first grade are C. of E. \$308.26; Methodist \$265.14; R. C. \$218.00; teachers of second grade,

C. of E. \$191.51; Methodist, \$219.98; R. C. \$156.00; teachers of third grade C. of E. \$152.76; fourth grade, \$197.90; R. C. \$125.00.

There is no system of school tax, but pupils are required to pay quarterly in advance to the teacher certain fees. Each pupil in Standard I and II pays \$2 per year; each pupil in Standard III, IV and V pays \$1.50 per year; each pupil in Standard VI pays \$200 per year, and each student learning Navigation pays \$4.00 per year. The school boards have the power to remit those fees or any part of them to such pupils as may be unable from poverty to pay them.

The total amount of the annual Legislative grant for Elementary and Secondary schools is \$154,089.18 or about 70c per head for the entire population.—

Grant for Elementary Schools	\$102,351.19
Grant for Augmentation of Teachers' Salaries	\$5,297.57
Grant for Training Teachers	5,610.84
Inspection, Office and Incidentals	6,060.00
Grant for Colleges	9,565.29
Council of Higher Education	4,000.00
Grant for Pensions to Retired Teachers	700.00
Grant for Pension Scheme	500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$154,089.18</b>

This grant is divided among the different religious denominations according to population:—

Church of England	\$51,732.93
Methodist	39,458.79
Roman Catholic	54,085.04
Presbyterian	1,073.54
Congregationalist	579.39
R. formed Episcopals	360.81
Salvation Army and others	1,584.69
Council of Higher Education	4,000.00
Pensions to Retired Teachers	700.00
Pension Scheme	500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$154,089.18</b>

There are 628 schools and colleges, with an attendance of 54,531 pupils. So the cost per pupil to Government is about \$4.50, and the percentage of the entire population attending school is about seventeen. There is no compulsory attendance law. The total amount of school fees collected in 1897 was \$24,122.19, and the people voluntarily contributed \$13,68.66; so the total amount paid towards education by the people was \$37,190.85 about 18c per head or less than a quarter of what the Government Grant amounts to yearly.

The number of teacher's employed is 759. 63 per cent of which number are females. The Council of Higher Education is a Board consisting of 23 members established for the purpose of promoting sound learning and advancing the interests of higher education by holding examinations and by awarding diplomas, prizes and scholarships to successful candidates at such examinations. In 1802 a Teacher's Pension Fund was established for the purpose of providing for the retirement of all teacher's upon their reaching the age of sixty years. The "school year" in Newfoundland consists of 210 days. There are four Colleges for higher education: all situated in St. John's. These are subsidized by the Legis-

lature to the extent of \$9,565.29. Last year the first Convention of the teachers of the Colony was held at St. John's and lasted three days. One thousand dollars had been voted in 1895 to defray the cost of the gathering and aid the teachers living in the more distant parts of the Colony in meeting their travelling expenses. Four hundred teachers were in attendance. The programme embraced the following subjects: (1) Science as a factor in Education; (2) Technical Education; (3) Industrial Training; (4) Kindergarten Work; (5) How to Handle Mixed Schools; (6) Duties of Parents in Relation to the School; (7) How to Secure Good Order in School; (8) The School and its Surroundings; (9) Pictorial Teaching. The outcome of the Convention was the establishment of a Newfoundland Teachers' Association." G. J. McCORMAC. St. George's, P. E. I., Nov. 22, '99.

## WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

Two Milwaukee Men to the Front With a System Different From Marconi's.

Chicago, Nov. 28.—Prof. W. S. Johnson and L. C. Fortier, of Milwaukee, today made a successful test in this city of the wireless telegraph. They succeeded in telegraphing without wires throughout a suit of seven rooms, with all doors closed, and through seven walls.

Another test was made when the signals were conveyed through three fire-proof vaults and an ordinary telegraph switchboard in which 30 wires were connected up and about 40 dead wires were located.

Notwithstanding the fact that this switchboard contained live wires, the current passed through all of the vaults and through this board.

A third test was made in which the sending instrument was placed inside of one of the steel vaults and both doors were closed and the combination lock turned. The signals were then transmitted clearly from the inside of the vault to an adjoining room. The professor claims that his invention is materially different from that of Marconi's, and that instruments can be constructed to be carried on horseback and be ready for operation within a few minutes after they have reached their destination.

## THE KEELEY CURE.

Those wishing to be cured of the craving for Alcohol, Morphine, Tobacco, and Cigarettes, to Portland, Maine, Keeley Institute. Reference: R. C. GORP, L. WORTHY, Wm. TURNER, P. P. ARCHIBALD, ALEXANDER HONNE, W. B. ROBERTSON, SIMON W. CRABBE Mrs. A. I. JOHNSON Mrs. R. J. CAMPBELL.

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BRITISH cough Care, Cures coughs—Prepared at Central Drug Store. 27 tf. GREAT value in dressing combs at Central Drug Store. 27 tf.

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Nov. 22 d & w

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"She comes from the past and re-visits my room; She looks as she did then, all beauty and bloom, So smiling and tender, so fresh and so fair, And wonder she sits in my cane-bottomed chair."

Many a man sits silent and alone in a home of mourning and conjures up before his eyes the face and form of the woman who was once a loving wife and a faithful helpmate. In thousands of such cases the wife might still be alive and well and happy, had the man been not only a good husband, but a wise adviser. Women shrink from the ordeal of consulting a physician. They shudder at the thought of submitting to the obnoxious examinations insisted upon by most physicians. In the majority of cases they have none of this hesitancy about consulting their husbands. A wise man will understand at once that troubles of this description will soon break down a woman's general health. He will understand that a specialist of eminence and world-wide reputation should be frankly consulted at once. Dr. R. V. Pierce, for thirty years chief consulting physician to the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute at Buffalo, N. Y., is one of the most eminent and widely-known specialists in the world. With the assistance of a staff of able physicians, he has prescribed for many thousands of ailing women. He has discovered a wonderful medicine for women, that may be used in the privacy of their homes. It is known as Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. It cures surely and permanently all weakness and disease of the distinctly feminine organism. It alleviates inflammation, heals ulceration, soothes pain, gives rest to the tortured nerves, and checks debilitating drains.