

The Provincial Normal School Building a Great Credit To the Province

The Splendid New Structure Opened Today Has Been Constructed to Follow Modern Accepted Ideas as to Practical Requirements — Every Convenience is Provided for Staff and Students.

A new, larger and modern Normal School has been built on the site of the old Provincial Normal School which was destroyed by fire in 1929.

The setting in which we find this new building is perhaps the nicest on Queen street, Fredericton's main business thoroughfare. The building is set well back from the street, surrounded by lawns and stately old elm trees. It is approached from Queen and York streets by cement paved walks leading to the main and side entrances. We see a building of red brick and light sandstone of particularly good workmanship and rather unusual design, readily recognized from the more than usual number of windows as a building for school purposes.

The architect and engineer, H. C. Mott of Saint John, N.B., was asked to create a design which would perpetuate in some details certain pleasing features of the design of the old school building which was destroyed. In this respect the main front entrances and central feature of the school, although re-proportioned in a more pleasing manner, reminds those familiar with the old building, of its triple gothic arched entrance and the window details, which although entirely inadequate in providing natural lighting in the old building, have been adopted to a certain degree, but in greater numbers in the new building.

An Unusual Design

The design cannot be classified as belonging to any particular style; it was not intended that it should. The building was to be utilized first, and the design to follow modern accepted ideas as to the practical requirements of a school building of this nature.

The building has a frontage of 175 feet parallel to Queen street and a depth of 144 feet on York street. It's front raises two and three storeys above a high semi-basement. The building runs back to and connects with the old Normal School Annex, which is now being used for Model School purposes. The school gymnasium is also in the annex. In plan, the main entrance occupies the front central position, approached by granite steps through arched openings and steps leading to the main vestibule and corridor. The school offices, vaults, principal's office and class room are located to the left of the main entrance. To the right are rooms for the faculty, their cloaks and toilet rooms and also a small emergency hospital room with proper furnishings, a standard class room, teachers' private room and supply room.

Immediately back of these is the students' main locker room with toilet room adjoining. Just back of the main entrance and facing it, is a corridor leading through to the annex building and containing the main stairway from basement to top floor. From this corridor a side door provides an emergency exit from the main auditorium, which occupies the left rear corner of the building.

Splendid Auditorium

The auditorium is so located and arranged that it may be used for other than school purposes during school sessions without interference with regular school activities. A side entrance from York street together with corridor door stops, make this possible. This ground floor auditorium together with balcony opening from the second floor, will seat approximately 800, which is considerably in excess of the school student body.

There is a graded floor with regular theatre type seating. The floor is finished with heavy rubber runners. The stage is rather unusual in arrangement with modern equipment and was designed with the idea in view of using the stage and front portion of the school, and the director of this auditorium for the music depart-

ment has found the acoustic qualities of the auditorium all that can be desired. A standard fireproof booth has been installed together with provision for the future equipping of the school with sound and motion picture equipment and for the receiving and broadcasting of public addresses or programs.

Standard Class Rooms

On the second floor, which is reached both from the main central stairway and one to York street side, are three standard class rooms with teachers' private rooms with supply rooms adjoining, also a complete separate department for French Speaking Students, and on the right front corner a large school library and study room fitted with sectional book stacks and furnished with tables and chairs for classes.

The wall stacks are carried to height of about 7 feet above the floor, and the room divided into four divisions by low rows of book cases which completely screen the students in the four separate divisions while they are seated at the study tables, but low enough to permit the instructor's supervision of the entire area when standing.

Separate toilet facilities and a medical examination or emergency hospital room for male students together with connecting corridor to annex completes the layout of this floor.

The third floor contains two medium sized special class rooms, one as a student-teachers practice room and the other for special classes, also class room for drawing instruction, and Science Department Laboratory, fully equipped with chemistry tables, sinks and fume cabinets, etc., also instructors' private laboratory, a supply room and teachers' private room.

From this floor a stairway continues to a small attic space, containing mechanical ventilating equipment for toilet rooms and lockers and from which access is obtained to the roof, on which has been mounted a tilting steel flag pole from which the Union Jack flies during all school sessions.

In the school basement, there are two class rooms adapted for manual training purposes, supply rooms and teachers' room for this department.

Household Science Department

These rooms occupy the left front section of the building and to the right front is a suite of rooms for the Household Science Department with a large class room equipped with coal, gas and electric cooking equipment, work tables, sinks, wash trays and electrical refrigeration equipment, a large pantry and school dining room. Back of the Household Science Department is a standard class room and also toilet facilities.

A central corridor connects with a passage to annex and to the rooms housing the school heating plant. The boiler and fuel rooms are located beneath the auditorium and are absolutely fireproof.

The architect was instructed in preparing the specifications for the school to provide as far as possible for the use of New Brunswick materials and workmanship, and in this respect we have a building which is as near 100 per cent New Brunswick, as it is practical to build consistent with providing a modern and fireproof school.

New Brunswick Materials

From almost every section of our province locally manufactured materials have been drawn for the erection of the building. The exterior walls are brick, faced with red face brick from Chipman, N. B., and backed up with stock brick from the Ryan plant in Fredericton. These brick walls are built in two sections with cork insulation between the inner and outer walls, and as far as we know, this is the first school building in New Brunswick to be insulated in this manner.

Insulation is recognized as one of the economical necessities for building where climatical conditions are such as ours. This cork lining protects the whole building from the effects of rapid temperature changes which are encountered here. It helps materially to protect the building from cold in the winter and also provides for a much cooler building through the hot summer weather.

The several roof levels of the building are all practically flat, constructed of gypsum cast blocks made from gypsum quarried in the Maritime Provinces and finished with asphalt built-up roofing. These gypsum blocks are an ideal insulating and fireproof roofing base. There are no parapet walls extending above the roof levels, and the absence of any attempt at roof cornicing is conspicuous though not required in the general design.

The stonework with which the exterior of the building has been moulded and trimmed was drawn from four different quarries in the province. The gray granite entrance steps and platforms were quarried and dressed at Spoon Island by the Granite Stone Pavement & Construction Co., Ltd.

The turned and polished red granite columns in the entrances are from St. George, in Charlotte county, from the quarries and works of Meating Epps Company. The stone sill courses are from the Smith quarries in Shediac, while the balance of the freestone trim was quarried and dressed by the Miramichi Quarry Company, Ltd., near Newcastle, Northumberland county. The gravel and sand was procured locally for the concrete for the foundation walls and the reinforced concrete slabs which form all the floors throughout the building. The structural steel beams, columns and trusses were all fabricated in Saint John by the Saint John Dry Dock & Shipbuilding Co., Ltd.

The window frames and class room cabinets, together with the doors, are the product of the J. C. Risteen Company, local woodworking factory. The doors throughout this building are particularly pleasing. They are perfectly smooth oak veneered doors built over pine cores, and the Risteen factory in producing these doors locally have proven that New Brunswick can build work of this nature equal to any imported stock.

All corridors are finished with red and buff flint tile floors and bases, laid by the W. Nonneman Tiling Company.

The finish floors of class rooms throughout the building, with the exception of the science department laboratory and one domestic science room (which are of tile), were manufactured by J. & D. A. Harquail Company of Campbellton. The room base throughout is of black tile with a sanitary floor cover. The window sills are finished inside with Canadian marble. The interior door frames and architraves are all of steel molded and in one piece.

All of the interior fittings and the furnishings which could be were made in New Brunswick. The Saint John Desk Company built and installed library sectional book stacks and cases, as well as a number of the tables and desks for the school. This firm also furnished part of the regular class room desks and seating as well as the auditorium seating, the metal work for which was produced by the Enterprise Foundry Company in Sackville, New Brunswick.

The Wallace Manufacturing Company of Sussex furnished science department laboratory table equipment and sundry desks and tables, as well as some of the regular class room seats and desks. They also built the two stainless steel domestic refrigerator cabinets for the Household Science department. The mechanical refrigeration equipment for these refrigerators was installed by the Smith Foundry Co., Ltd., and J. S. Neill & Sons, Ltd. It is desirable that our people should realize that it is possible to produce within our own province practically everything necessary for any building program which they may have in view, and to obtain here, within the bounds of our own province, materials

which are equal in quality to any which may be imported.

Extensive Facilities

In Fredericton the Normal School facilities as arranged provide for the particular requirements of our provincial system, wherein classes considerably larger have to be provided for, than in many of the more wealthy provinces of our Dominion and the States to the south of us. Although the individual class room accommodation is of necessity of larger area than in a great many other similar schools, every facility and necessary accommodation has been cared for in a manner consistent with modern practice.

The executive offices are conveniently situated for those of the public who have to visit the school. In this department is a general office for the school secretary with a large fireproof vault for records, a room for faculty meetings and the principal's private office, together with separate faculty rooms with individual steel lockers and toilet rooms have been provided for both male and female members.

The locker accommodation for students provides a separate steel locker for each, of ample proportions and provided with individual locks. A number of these lockers are set in the corridor walls recessed flush with the face of wall and each section of lockers is provided with means for mechanical ventilation so that damp clothing may be dried and aired.

The main locker room is fitted with rows of lockers set back to back with ventilating spaces between. The toilet rooms are all finished in tile and fitted with modern fixtures and adequate means of ventilation, natural gravity ventilation ducts, and also a mechanical exhaust system operated by fans in the attic which discharge through flues above the roof.

The general ventilation of rooms is cared for by ventilation flues, double hanging of all windows and with a system of unit ventilator heaters which provide for automatically maintaining and desired temperature in the rooms, and at the same time allowing for the automatic introduction of any desired amount of fresh air.

Ventilator Heaters

The Normal School is the first school in New Brunswick in which these unit ventilator heaters have been installed. The control of these units is rather interesting in as much as the electrical control is such that the temperature of each room may be set to suit the individual requirements for such times as the room is occupied, and the caretaker can, by the throwing of a single control switch after dismissal of students, set the temperature in the rooms to another lower temperature to be maintained until such times as the rooms are required for use, when the working temperature can again be reached within a very short time.

The heating system is operated by steam from three low pressure cast iron sectional boilers, two of which are equipped with automatic mechanical stokers burning New Brunswick coal from the mines at Minto.

Fire doors, smoke screens and stand pipes with fire hose as well as hand extinguishers are throughout the building, together with an electric fire alarm system have been installed for connecting with the regular City fire alarm system have been installed for the safety and protection of the students and property.

The artificial lighting system, is of the reflector refractor type throughout the building, which provides as nearly as possible for artificial daylight conditions. Outside ornamental lighting standards are used to illuminate the grounds around the building.

A private interphone system between all class rooms and office gives desired facilities for contact between the executive department and the class rooms. A system of electrical clocks and program ringing equipment provides for the ringing of any desired system of signals at five minute intervals during the twenty-four hours of each day for seven days a week.

On February 11, 1930, the contract for this building was awarded to Messrs. R. D. Forbes & C. J. Brown, general contractors, of Devon, N. B., who, with the several sub contractors, have carried out the whole of the work in a very creditable manner.

The sub contractors were: W. E. Emerson & Sons, Ltd., heating, plumbing and ventilating; F. E. Driscoll and George Mackie, electric work and telephones; George J. Barrett, clocks and program system; J. E. Wilson, Ltd., sheet metal work; Miramichi Quarry Co., Ltd., sandstone; E. A. Smith, sandstone; Granite St. Pavement & Construction Co., Ltd., granite; Jas.

GRADUATES OF THE PROVINCIAL NORMAL SCHOOL HAVE MADE GOOD IN MANY WALKS OF LIFE

Dr. H. V. B. Bridges Gives Interesting and Comprehensive Review at the formal Opening of the New Building Today—Premier Bennett the Most Distinguished Graduate.

(By Dr. H. V. B. Bridges, Principal of the Provincial Normal School)

The opening of such a building as this new Normal School, adapted in every way for the purposes for which it is intended, marks a milestone in progress in education in New Brunswick. That we should meet here for the purpose of dedicating such a building for the preparation of the teachers of New Brunswick seems altogether fitting.

The Normal School is not an ancient institution in this country or even in Europe. The nineteenth century saw the foundation of nearly all of those now in active operation on either side

about a demand for some form of teachers' training.

At Saint John First

However, it was not until the year 1862, that a Normal School or Teachers' Training School was established in Saint John under the principalship of Dr. Crockett, but in 1870 these two schools were disestablished and a Provincial Normal School, more centrally located was established in Fredericton in the old barracks. Dr. Crockett was principal when the old building was opened in 1877. In the first ten years of the Normal School, or rather previous to 1870, a teacher's license was not provincial but was good for but three or four counties. It could be changed once, but not a second time without special permission.

It is not my purpose, however, to tell of the early history of the Normal School in New Brunswick. This is something that will be thoroughly dealt with by Mr. McFarlane.

The statement has been made that it is my part to tell of the illustrious graduates of the School. Indeed, I think that one would be very rash in the few minutes of time at my disposal to attempt anything of the kind,

Many Graduates

When you consider that the history of the School in Fredericton goes back for sixty years, that the number of students during those years has been in the vicinity of 15,000, one can easily recognize what a task it would be to single out in numbers alone those who have attained distinction in life's duties and occupations. Over six sevenths of the number of students in these years were young ladies, and unfortunately for statistics, they had opportunities of escape from the tyranny of the school bell and the teaching profession that the male students knew not of, and their vocation has remained to a great extent in the home.

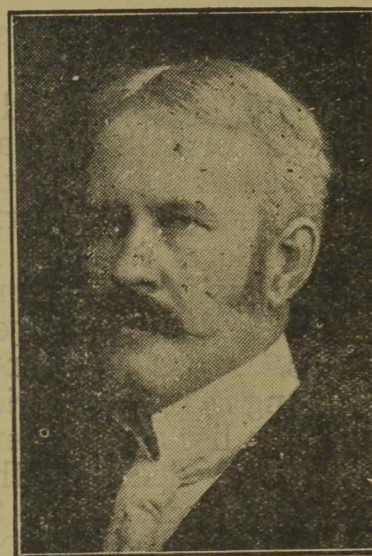
The school of New Brunswick are in the hands of teachers of whom at least nine-tenths are women whose work justly merits, I trust, the words of commendation uttered by Dr. Rand, a former Chief Superintendent of Education, in his last address in this Province: "In a life spent in the cause of education in three provinces of Canada I can say truly that I have found more of the life element in teaching among the teachers of New Brunswick than elsewhere."

In South Africa

Not infrequently one hears of the success of lady teachers, graduates of our school, outside of New Brunswick. Last summer one of the most important principalships in the schools for young ladies in the middle western United States went to a former student of our school, Miss Hilda Stewart of Dalhousie. These are the words of General Smutz and his wife to two teachers from this school who went to Pretoria at the close of the Boer War: "We are more than pleased to think that all of our six children have had the inestimable privilege of going to your school while you have been teaching in Pretoria."

Not long ago the fact was noted that the three past regents of the I. O. D. E. were at one time students here and that a daughter of the present is a recent graduate of this institution. Some of us remember of having the pleasure of attending Government House when presided over by one of our graduates and recollect also that the sister and wife of the Administrator of tomorrow were students here. I have letters, not exactly at hand, from former lady students telling of their work and success and among these I remember two, one of which was signed Superintendent of Nurses, Massachusetts General Hospital, and the other Matron of one of the large hospitals on Blackwell's Island, N. Y. And so I might continue. One might tell, also of the difficulties ladies had to encounter to gain admission at first to Normal School work, but this is a fact which does not

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DR. H. V. B. BRIDGES
Principal of the Normal School

of the Atlantic. The question sometimes comes up as to what was done to furnish teachers for schools in New Brunswick previous to any provision for Normal School training. I hold in my hand a certificate granted to one John Baird in 1823 to teach in the City of Fredericton under certain conditions. This certificate is signed by George Carter and James Somerville. The one, an Archdeacon of the Anglican Church and the other head of King's College which was afterwards merged into the University of New Brunswick.

In The Old Days

A man—for the teachers of that time were all of the male sex—had to appear before a committee of two or three members and submit to an oral examination and a written test. He received no certificate, however, until he could inform the committee of examiners that he could procure a school, providing a certificate was forthcoming. When issued, it must state the name of the place and number of pupils likely to attend. Teachers were liable to be called up for examination again at a later date, but they were said to be duly licensed under statute when the certificate was received. I remember, shortly after I was appointed to the office of Inspector of Schools, talking with the late Senator Wark, who lived to be upwards of one hundred. He had come to New Brunswick from the north of Ireland and for some years taught school in the County of Kent. After teaching for a time, he entered upon business life and he represented Kent County in the Legislature until he became a member of the Senate at Confederation. He told me that he was the first to move in the Legislature for some form of School Inspection or Supervision. His motion was carried and three men were appointed to carry out a form of inspection and report for the information of the Legislature.

This report showed a lamentable state of affairs as far as education in New Brunswick was concerned and it had the effect, indeed, it brought

H. Pullen, panting and glazing; W. Nonneman Tiling Co., tile and marble work; the J. C. Risteen Co., Ltd., factory work; the Saint John Dry Dock & Shipbuilding Co., Ltd., structural steel.