

SUMMER SCHOOL OF SCIENCE.

The Summer School of Science for the Atlantic Provinces of Canada meets next July in Antigonish. The fine new building of St. Francis Xavier college has kindly been placed at its disposal for the occasion. Antigonish will this summer be connected with all the Atlantic Provinces by the most direct lines of communication. The opening of the Pictou-Oxford branch of the I. C. R. makes a straight line of rails to St. John, and New Brunswick generally; and for Prince Edward Island it is only one remove from Pictou. The accommodations for the school will be good and inexpensive. The botanical *faucies* of the district will be a change from that of the previous location of the school, giving all our botanists that great desideratum, a new ground for investigation. From a geological point of view the region is classic. The Arisaig coast displays so many well marked formations of the palæozoic age, first disclosed to the world by our late lecturer in geology, Dr. Honeyman, and yet receiving the attention of the geological survey of the Dominion, that our geologists must be delighted. The only regret on this point is, that the minutely accurate geological maps of the county, completed by the survey two or three years ago, owing to the peculiar judgment and temper of the deputy head at Ottawa, have not yet been published, and are only proposed to be published on a surface sixteen smaller than the maps of all the Cape Breton counties. A deputy has in such details, it appears, obstructive powers which even cabinet ministers may find it ticklish to deal with. We only stop to say that this and other points may soon be so clearly put to our people that the government may find no difficulty in dealing with the matter. In conclusion we must not forget to notice the proximity of the site of the school to the Alps of the Atlantic Provinces — not an inland Alps, but a maritime one, picturesque in its marine as well as in its freshwater lakes, missing only the glacier-flanked peaks of the old world — the island of Cape Breton.

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE.

The Chief Superintendent of Education in New Brunswick in several reports has earnestly advocated compulsory attendance at school. In his last report he says that "the question is one so vitally related to the well-being of the country that it must continue to be pressed until some action is taken."

The Inspectors who, perhaps, are in a better position than others to estimate public opinion and

appreciate the necessities of the school service, are, so far as they have expressed themselves—and some have done so again and again—unanimous in their advocacy of compulsory education. In their reports are such remarks as these: "Many children never attend school at all. In this connection my attention has repeatedly been called to the need of some scheme that would compel the regular attendance of all." "Attendance will never be satisfactory until we have a compulsory clause introduced into our otherwise excellent school system." "Anything like compulsory education would be strongly supported by the large majority of ratepayers in this district." "The best sentiment of this district is in favor of compulsory attendance at school."

The teachers of the Province at both County and Provincial Institutes have many times endorsed the principle of compulsory attendance, and trustees and school officers have persistently advocated it.

The most influential portion of the public press has given its adherence to the principle and has ably argued in its favor.

The Attorney-General of the Province, in a recent speech at Woodstock, while he did not commit himself in the matter, referred to the subject as one occupying the attention of the government, and expressed himself desirous of having the matter discussed by the representatives of the people.

It is to be earnestly hoped that the present session of the legislature will not adjourn without the matter of compulsory attendance having been brought forward for discussion at least. The details of such a scheme require mature deliberation, and in the adoption of such a measure the experience of other countries will be before our eyes. In Ontario, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island there is at the present time a compulsory clause in the school law. In Quebec, Manitoba and New Brunswick there is yet no such provision.

In the Province of Ontario a pamphlet has been printed by order of the Legislative Assembly embodying the experience of Canada, Great Britain, Germany and the United States in the matter. To this we may refer again.

In their advocacy of compulsory attendance, teachers and school officers cannot be accused of selfishness, as their already arduous duties would be greatly added to by its adoption. Earnest, ambitious and conscientious persons coming in contact each day with examples of carelessness and almost criminal neglect on the part of parents, and recognizing that each man is his brother's keeper, they do well to be outspoken. The very unselfishness of its strongest advocates strengthens the advocacy.