

A fine coloured picture of the death of Nelson can be obtained from the Messrs. Steinberger, Hendry & Company, Toronto. Price \$2.

IN the teachers' pension scheme recommended for Nova Scotia, it is proposed to form a fund from the following sources: Teachers whose salaries do not exceed \$300 shall contribute one per cent; those who receive more than \$300 and not more than \$800, two per cent; and those who receive more than \$800, three per cent. In addition, there will be interest on the permanent fund, and the government of Nova Scotia is expected to contribute \$2,000 a year.

A NATIONAL conference of trustees of American colleges and universities will be held at the University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, beginning Tuesday, October 17th, during the week in which Dr. Edmund J. James will be formally inaugurated as president of that university. Some important questions will be discussed regarding college administration, which in the United States is managed by boards of trustees composed of non-experts, that is to say, by laymen interested in, but not engaged in, professional educational work. While this method of control is regarded as satisfactory by some, by others it is held to be a serious weakness to the system of higher education. In England the old universities are self-governing bodies, controlled largely by the faculties; in France and Germany they are departments of the government, and so far as they are not directly under the control of the government, they are autonomous, that is, ruled by the faculties.

Nature Study in Canada.

IN an article on Nature-study in the Schools of Nova Scotia, published recently in the *Ottawa Naturalist* and later in the *Nature-Study Review*, of New York, Dr. A. H. MacKay gives an interesting summary of the growth of the nature-study idea in Eastern Canada, beginning with the presentation, a quarter of a century ago, of an outline of a nature course for the schools of Nova Scotia. At the instance of Dr. Allison, superintendent of schools, Dr. MacKay, then principal of the public schools and the historic academy of Pictou, laid before the N. S. Educational Association on the 14th July, 1880, the outline of a course which, after discussion and revision, soon after became a part of the pre-

scribed course of the first eight grades of the Nova Scotia schools.

Early in 1887 three teachers representing the provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island met at Pictou on the invitation of Principal MacKay, and the result was the founding of a journal, whose primary object was to foster the nature study idea. Quoting the words of Dr. MacKay:

In 1887 THE EDUCATIONAL REVIEW, which has ever since been continuously published at St. John, N. B., was started with the object of developing the nature-study side of the course, as well as serving incidentally as a teachers' organ for the Atlantic Provinces of Canada. Illustrated lessons on natural objects were prepared, the most continuous being the series under the title "Ferndale School." The whole environment of common-school life was more or less covered, instruction for teachers on various subjects, including even the evening sky, which was illustrated by a series of star maps. The Ferndale series dealt with the biological side mainly; but other papers covered mineralogy, physical phenomena of common range, and so forth, before any similar effort appears to have been made in any other province of Canada.

Dr. MacKay then traces the growth of nature-study in connection with the normal school of Nova Scotia, and the appropriations of Sir William Macdonald at Guelph, Ontario, to provide suitable instruction for teachers of nature-study throughout Canada. He also alludes incidentally to the work carried on by the teachers and schools in his own province, where such observations are made as the first flowering, leafing and fruiting of plants; the migration of birds; thunderstorms, frosts, high and low water, etc. These have been taken so regularly and proved of such utility that many schools elsewhere, from Nova Scotia to British Columbia, have adopted the same plan; with results that promise to become increasingly useful.

The "Ferndale Series," referred to above, was the contribution to the REVIEW of Dr. MacKay, and he has been asked to revise that suggestive series, bring it up to date and publish it in pamphlet form with other related matter. Such a guide to nature study would be invaluable to the teacher, and it is hoped that Dr. MacKay may find time to elaborate his early work.

The Boston *Traveller* thinks that the hen whose egg product is valued at \$280,000,000 yearly is more desirable as a national bird than the lordly eagle, which causes loss rather than gain to the country. The suggestion is practical, if it is not sentimental.