

## QUEBEC.

Owing to the many questions connected with stocks, capital, trade and commerce generally, some of the Quebec newspapers regret that political economy is not taught more in our schools and colleges. The complexity of the details in the arrangement of the new tariff is said to be making custom house officers regret the defects of early education in some important particulars.

Professors Weir and Emberson have completed their tour of inspection. The report of the state of the model schools and academies will be looked for with interest, as this is the second inspection, and it will be possible for the inspectors to institute some sort of comparison, showing how much particular schools have improved or deteriorated since last inspection. It is a great pity that such matters of vital importance are not noticed in some way by the public press of the Province. Judging from the silence of the press, one might imagine either that our educational system was perfect, and therefore needed no discussion, or that it was utterly unimportant, and therefore deserved no discussion. Educational matters are duller than usual, owing to the non-appearance of the Chief Superintendent's report at the usual time.

The school examinations of McGill University for Certificates of the University, and the title of Associate in Arts, are held this year in Montreal, commencing May 19th. Local centres may be appointed elsewhere on application to the Principal of the University, accompanied with satisfactory guarantees for the payment of the necessary expenses. The examinations are open to boys or girls under 18 years of age, from any Canadian school. The subjects are divided into two classes: (1.) Preliminary, in which every candidate must pass; (2.) Optional, in which the candidate may have a choice. The preliminary subjects are English reading, dictation, grammar (Morell or Smith), arithmetic, geography (the Continents and British North America), Collier's British History and Jeffers' Canadian History, and the four Gospels, unless objection is made thereto. No candidate can pass unless he shall have obtained at least one-third of the total number of marks in each subject, and two-thirds in Reading and Dictation. The optional subject are divided into four groups—(a) Language. (b) Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. (c) English. (d) Natural Science. Under the head of languages are included—(1.) Latin, embracing Grammar, Cæsar's *Bellum Britannicum*, Cicero's *Pro Archia* and Virgil's *Eclogues*, i. iv. vi. vii. ix. (2.) Greek, embracing Grammar, Homer's *Iliad*, Book vi. and Xenophon's *Anabasis*, Book ii. (3.) French, embracing Grammar, Extracts from Moliere in Daisey's French Reader, and translation into French of chaps. 1 and 2 of the *Vicar of Wakefield*. (4.) German, embracing Grammar, Adler's Reader, sec. 2, and translation from German into English. Under the head of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy are included—(1.) Geometry, Euclid, i. ii. iii. (2.) Algebra, including Simple Equations. (3.) Plain Trigonometry, including the solution of Right-angled Triangles. (4.) Mechanics and Hydrostatics. Under the head of English are included—(1.) Language, Smith's Grammar, Peel's Primer, and Trench's Study of Words. (2.) Literature, Brooke's Primer; Scott's *Lady of the Lake*, and Milton's *P. L.*, P. R., 1 and 2. (3.) History, Primers of Greece and Rome, Collier's Great Events. (4.) Geography, Physical, Political and Commercial. Under the head of Natural Science are included—(1.) Zoology, Nicholson's Introductory Text-Book. (2.) Botany, Gray's First Lessons. (3.) Geology, Dana's Text-Book. (4.) Chemistry, Miller's Inorganic Chemistry. Every candidate must pass in at least one and not more than three subjects in each of the Optional Sections. Under the Mathematical Section candidates may take as a subject Geometrical and Freehand Drawing. In order to pass in an optional subject, at least one-fourth of the total number of marks must be obtained. Junior and Senior certificates are awarded as the result of the examination. Boys obtaining a Senior Certificate are termed Associate in Arts of the University. Those who pass in Latin, Greek, English, Algebra, Geometry, will be considered as having matriculated in the Faculty of Arts. The examination is held in the William Molson Hall, commencing each day at 9 o'clock. The entrance fee is \$4, payable to the Secretary of the University.

The University has also issued regulations for the higher examination of women. Women over 16 years of age, who have already received the senior or junior certificates of the University, or who present certificates of education and examination accepted as equivalents by the examiners, may enter on these examinations, and on passing shall be entitled to certificates as senior Associates in Arts. These examinations will be held at the same time and in

the same manner as these for school certificates, and local centres may be established on similar conditions. The fee is \$8. The imperative subjects are Latin or Greek, with History; Mathematics; Logic and English; in addition to which one optional subject must be taken, selected from a specified list.

## NOVA SCOTIA.

W. D. McKenzie, Esq., of Painsboro, has been appointed Inspector of Schools for the County of Cumberland. The new Inspector has had a very successful experience as Teacher in the public schools, and was for several years Principal of the County Academy at Amherst. He holds a first-class Common School License, Academic License (highest attainable in Nova Scotia), and Normal School Certificates.

The report of the Superintendent of Education, for the year 1878, has been presented to both branches of the Legislature. The Superintendent directs attention to "the gratifying evidence furnished by its various tables, summaries, comparisons and supplementary reports, of the intelligent and vigorous support given by the people, as a whole, to the cause of popular education." We learn from the report that during the winter term there were 1,812 schools in operation; and during the summer term, 1,915; the respective increases over the preceding year being 81 and 44. The number of different pupils registered during the school term was 101,538, or one in 3.8 of the population of the Province according to the census of 1871. The Province paid directly to teachers of public schools, according to the several grades of license held, \$150,455.97. The teachers received in addition from the people, through the trustees, \$302,150.93. The whole amount from the Provincial Treasury expended for Common Schools, Academic and Collegiate education was \$208,114.91. Besides explanatory notes regarding school statistics, expenditure and kindred matters, the report treats at length of Intermediate Education, the Provincial Normal School and the Examination of Candidates for Teachers' Licenses. It also suggests certain modifications of the School Law as desirable.

The *Lunenburg Progress* devotes a column each week to local matters of interest connected with the cause of education. These educational memoranda impress the reader favorably as to the vitality and vigor of the schools of the town, which are under the excellent superintendence of E. H. Owen, Esq. (A.M. of King's).

It is reported that R. Benoit, Esq., Inspector of Schools for the County of Richmond, is about to resign his office in consequence of having received an important Dominion appointment.

The County Academy at Amherst possesses an excellent working cabinet, comprising classified and catalogued specimens of the principal minerals of the Dominion. The collection has received large additions of late through donations from the Geological Survey Department of Canada, and A. J. Hill, Esq., C. E. The Principal of the Academy, A. H. Eaton, Esq. (A.M. of Acadia and Harvard), is an enthusiastic naturalist.

## MANITOBA.

Quarterly meetings of the Board of Education and of the University Council were held on the first Thursday in March. The committee on legislation laid before the Board of Education the results of their labors in the shape of a draft bill, embodying the consolidation of all the School Acts of the Province, together with such new matter as it was thought necessary to introduce. The committee were unanimous in wishing, by the judicious arrangement of clauses under their proper headings, to make the Act as intelligible as possible, and, by the introduction of such new clauses as seemed necessary, to obviate the necessity of constant tinkering. One of the chief new features is the power proposed to be conferred on each section of the Board of Education, to divide the province into inspectorial districts, to change the same from time to time, to appoint inspectors, to define their duties, and to provide for their remuneration. The draft bill was referred to each section of the Board of Education for its consideration, and the meeting adjourned to the last Thursday in March, when any suggestions that may be made by the sections will be considered.

The new education offices near the City Hall are to be ready for occupation in a few weeks. Up to the present time there have been no public offices, the Superintendents doing their correspondence in their own private rooms, and the meetings being held sometimes in the Council Chamber and sometimes in the Court House. The new offices consist of a suite of five rooms, one for each of the Superintendents, one for the Registrar of the University, one for