

University; Profs. Baker and Alexander, University of Toronto; Chancellor Burwash, Victoria University; Prof. McKay, McMaster University; Dr. A. P. Knight, Queen's; Alex. Steele, B.A., Principal High School, Orangeville; Inspector Dearness, President Loudon, ex-officio.

The function of this council is, to conduct all the various examinations which play so important a part in our educational system, such as the high school leaving examination, examinations for teachers' certificates of different grades, and matriculation into the universities and professions. An idea of the magnitude of the work may be got from the fact that at the examinations of last summer about 12,000 candidates presented themselves. Up till about five years ago the entrance to the universities was under the control of the universities themselves, while the remainder of the examinations named were administered wholly by the Education Department. In 1891 a joint board of eight members was appointed to do the whole work—name examiners to set the papers, and sub-examiners to read the answers, the results being revised finally by the joint board. The joint board contained four representatives of the Education Department and four representatives of the Senate of the Provincial University. This arrangement had the advantage of uniting under joint control of higher education the two main divisions of the provincial educational machinery; the new council assumes the functions of the joint board, which hence ceases to exist. The difference in principle between the new council and the old board, as will readily be seen from the above explanation, is that the control of all the higher educational examinations, including the matriculation, is vested in a body whose members are wholly appointed by the Department of Education; while on

the other hand, is taken from the Provincial University, along with the voice which it had in its own matriculation, the power which it enjoyed along with the department of fixing the standard for higher education in general. Naturally and properly the Senate of the University of Toronto objected to this fundamental change. The result of the Senate's deliberations on this important change has not yet been made public, but it is understood that it has been decided to accept, provisionally, the new council in lieu of the joint board, in the hope, or possibly with the understanding, that the Minister will so modify his scheme as to restore the essential features of the former arrangement. It is to be earnestly hoped that the Senate of the University will not lose sight of the very fundamental element of the educational interests of the Province, which are intrusted to its safe keeping, and it will not, abjectly, bow the knee to the fierce modern Molech of examination results.

#### VENEZUELAN ARBITRATION.

It is satisfactory to know from Lord Salisbury's Guildhall speech that the Venezuelan controversy is practically at an end. There will be arbitration by an Anglo-American Commission, but Great Britain will be entitled to hold all territory settled by her subjects for the same time which is necessary to give a valid title to individual property. As the British Prime Minister said: "The same lapse of time which protects individuals in civic life from having their title questioned should also protect the English colony from having its title questioned; and where that lapse of time could not be claimed, though there should be an examination of the title, yet all that equity demanded in consideration of such title should be granted."