

prizes, and that a library of Canadian authors should be established in every township.

In a late panel of the petit jury in Montreal, out of seventeen jurors, only four could sign their own names. The Montreal Star wants to know whether our educational system is a failure? What are the results of the labours of Meilleur, Chauveau, DeBoucherville, during the last thirty years? Is this simple fact in accordance with the figures of Educational Reports, with which the country has been so long content?

At the last meeting of the Catholic Committee of the Council of Public Instruction, Hon. Mr. Chauveau presented the report of the Committee appointed to examine candidates for Catholic Inspectorships. The Board sat for three days, examined 18 candidates, of whom five were rejected. The examiners are to receive each \$10 for each day of attendance. The Chief Superintendent, Hon. G. Ouimet, read a report on the proposed subdivisions for four new Inspectorships. The Committee then proceeded to make recommendation of persons to fill the vacancies thus created. The final appointment rests with the Government.

On the proposition of the Archbishop of Quebec, the quorum of the Committee was fixed at five members. On the proposition of the Bishop of Three Rivers, the following appropriations were recommended to the Legislature for the ensuing session: Superior Education, \$80,000; Common School, \$200,000; Poor Municipalities, \$8,000; Normal Schools, \$50,000; School Inspectors, \$80,000; Prizes, \$5,000; Journals of Education, \$4,000; Pensions, \$10,000; Schools for Deaf Mutes, \$12,000; Book Depository, \$5,000, and Contingencies, \$7,000.

#### NOVA SCOTIA.

The Convocation of Dalhousie College, Halifax, was held on the 26th October, and was, as usual, largely attended. Sir William Young, Chief Justice, President of the Board of Governors, presided in the absence of the Principal, Rev. D. Ross, D.D. Prof. G. Lawson, M.A., LL.D., delivered the opening address, in the course of which he referred to the progress of Dalhousie, and spoke in praise of the University of Halifax, whose examinations would afford the means of practically testing the value of the education given in the affiliated colleges. Rev. G. M. Grant, M.A., the new Principal of Queen's College, Kingston, also spoke at some length, and was followed by Mr. Dana, one of the American counsel attending the Fishery Commission, and Judge Foster, the American agent at the Commission. His Excellency M. Delfosse, President of the Commission, and Mr. E. H. Kellogg, the American Commissioner, were also present.

Two graduates of Dalhousie, who have distinguished themselves in European Universities, have recently been appointed to important positions in Halifax, J. J. Mackenzie, M.A., Ph.D., succeeding James Gordon Macgregor, M.A., Ph.D., as Lecturer on Physics in Dalhousie College, and H. A. Bayne, M.A., Ph.D., having entered upon his duties as Teacher of Mathematics in the new High School. Mr. Macgregor has gone to England, having accepted an excellent post at Clifton College, Bristol.

Dalhousie has opened its winter session with a class of 17 matriculants; there were six competitors for the Professors' scholarships at matriculation, the successful candidates being Graham Creelman, Pictou Academy, and James S. Trueman, St. John Grammar School.

The City School Board has resolved that all teachers shall be required to attain a certain standard of efficiency, and the Committee on Teachers has been charged with the duty of fixing that standard.

The Supervisor, B. Curren, D.C.L., and the Secretary of the Board, C. C. Vaux, have had their salaries raised to \$1,400 each.

Aldermen M. J. Power and Alexander Forsyth have been elected by the City Council to serve in the City School Board. The Council adheres to the practice of selecting its quota of Commissioners from among its own members, whether these know anything of matters scholastic or not. There was an attempt made two years ago by Alderman Harrington to induce the Council to select practical educationists for that office, but it failed; and the old system has been rigidly adhered to.

No site has yet been selected for the new High School building; the classes are at present being conducted in the old Masons' Hall.

Rev. G. M. Grant, who will leave shortly to enter upon his duties at Kingston, has presented three copies of the revised edition of his work—"Ocean to Ocean"—as "scholarship prizes," to be given to the three most successful candidates, from the Princi-

pal's department in Morris street school, at the examination for High School scholarships in January next.

The Government have appointed David Allison, LL.D., to the office of Superintendent of Education vacated by the death of Rev. A. S. Hunt. Dr. Allison is about 42 years of age, and is a native of Nova Scotia. He was educated at Middleton, Mass., taking high honors. He then joined the Wesleyan College at Sackville, N. B., with which are connected two academies, one for boys, and one for girls. He has been President of the College since 1871, and made his mark as one of the ablest educationists in the Province. He is a Fellow of the University of Halifax, and at all meetings of the Senate has been distinguished for his zeal in the cause of higher education. His appointment gives great satisfaction. The Government, it is said, have resolved to increase the Superintendent's salary to \$2,400; it was \$1,600 in Mr. Hunt's time.

At the opening of the session of 1877-8 of the Presbyterian Theological Hall, which was presided over by Rev. Dr. Burns, Bishop Fallows, of the Reformed Episcopal Church, spoke in praise of the Presbyterian Church as a patron of Education.

The Convocation of the University of Halifax has nominated the following gentlemen as candidates for the Fellowship of the University vacated by Rev. G. M. Grant:—Benjamin Russell, M.A., Barrister-at-Law, Halifax; A. W. Sawyer, D.D., President of Acadia College (Baptist), Wolfville; Stephen Tobin, B.A., Halifax. The Government select one of the three candidates for the appointment. Rev. Dr. Sawyer is by far the best of the trio. The vacancy caused in the Senate by the death of Rev. A. S. Hunt will be filled directly by the Government, but it is not yet known who will be the new Fellow.

Prince of Wales College, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, has been affiliated to the University of Halifax, and will send up all its students for examination in matriculation and the various faculties.

The various affiliated colleges have been assimilating their curriculum in the different Faculties to that of the University. This is a step in the right direction.

The regulations of the University for graduation in Science were discussed at the last meeting of Senate, and will be published by the end of the year.

#### PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Of the Maritime Provinces, Prince Edward Island was the first to establish a system of free schools, and lately another step has been taken in advance, by the reorganization of the educational system under a new law, which was introduced as a measure during the last session of the House of Assembly by the Davies-Stewart government, and which was duly inaugurated on the 1st of July last. During the short time in which the new system has been on trial, much progress has been made, though the plan of raising the assessment has caused some little discontent in a few of the country districts. In many points the new law is similar to that in existence in Ontario, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick; and as the teachers now receive larger salaries than heretofore, and as more money is required for the support of better school houses and modern improvements, the government found it necessary to raise a large revenue. Formerly a tax of six and eightpence was levied on every farm consisting of a hundred acres, but now a more equitable system has been adopted, by which, though some pay more than formerly, the vast majority pay very little in advance of the former levy. Those who are now taxed heavily, notwithstanding their attachment to the principle of free schools, naturally grumble at the increase in their taxes, and speak disparagingly of the government; but the breeze, in all probability, will soon blow over, and all the Islanders will then settle down to the work of making their educational system and their schools second to none in the Dominion.

The energy of the Board of School Trustees for Charlottetown meets with approbation on all sides. When they began the work of organizing the city schools, they had many difficulties to contend with. There was only one respectable building in the town which they could make use of as a school house. This was the Academy, which the Wesleyans, in a praiseworthy spirit of educational enterprise, had built at their own expense, and had conducted as a graded school for five years. This handsome building was at once rented by the Trustees; and it is now arranged into a Normal School, with all the departments of a properly graded school, as a Model or Practising School. Attending the Normal School there are over eighty students, while the Model School has an