

general drift of the evidence convince us that the conscience clause is carefully observed both by teachers and managers.

(72) That we recognize, nevertheless, the importance of removing, if possible, any suspicion of unfair play or undue influence in the administration of the conscience clause from the minds of those who entertain such impressions. And any further precautions which might tend in that direction without compromising still higher interests are deserving of the most careful consideration.

(73) That, greatly as the estimate of the value of the religious' instruction given in board schools varies with the standpoint from which it is regarded, there is good ground for concluding that where care is bestowed on the organization of such instruction, and sufficient time is allowed for imparting it, it is of a nature to affect the conscience and influence the conduct of the children of whose daily training it forms a part. That it is much to be hoped that the religious and moral training in all elementary schools may be raised to the high standard which has been already reached in many of them.

(74) That exactly the same facilities to hold annual examinations of

their schools in religious knowledge should be given by law to school boards as are now allowed under Section 76 of the Act of 1870 to the managers of voluntary schools.

(75) That increased support should be given by the State to the moral element of training in our schools, almost the only reference to the importance of such matters made by the State being that in the Code which is made under the head of Discipline.

(76) That general, fundamental, and fixed instructions to her Majesty's inspectors should be laid down as to moral training, making it an essential condition of the efficiency of a public elementary school that its teaching should comprise such matters as instruction in duty and reverence to parents, honour and truthfulness in word and act, honesty, consideration, respect for others, obedience, cleanliness, good manners, duty to country, purity, temperance, the discouragement of bad language, and the like.

(77) That it should be the first duty of her Majesty's inspectors to inquire into and report upon the moral training and condition of the schools under the various heads set forth, and to impress upon the managers, teachers, and children the primary importance of this essential element of all education.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS.

IN 1887 Canada had 12,292 miles of railway in operation, carrying 10,685,508 passengers during the year, 16,367,987 tons of freight, equal to 35 tons per inhabitant.

PROJECTED CRIMEAN CANAL.—The Crimean Peninsula is (the Odessa correspondent of the *Daily News* says) to have a canal cut through it. After many schemes have been discussed by the Russian Government and Rus-

sian private enterprises for piercing the isthmus of Perekop and opening a maritime highway through the Si-vash, there appears now every prospect of the undertaking being carried to a successful issue, not by the Russian Department of War and Communications, nor by Russian private enterprise, but by a French company and French capital. The Imperial Government has already given its adhesion to the project, and the Min-