

1897, when the attendance numbered over two thousand. The report of the New Haven meeting of 1906 has been published, and presents the well-considered opinions of many practical educationists on the most important educational questions of the day.

THE April *Journal of Education* for the Province of Nova Scotia has been issued, and is of special interest on account of the new course of study prescribed for the provincial high schools and academies. The former high school course has been revised in accordance with recommendations made by the Advisory Board of Education, and, as revised, runs as follows:

Grade IX.—English, Latin, geography, arithmetic, algebra, drawing, botany, physics.

Grade X.—English, Latin, Greek, French, German, history, chemistry, arithmetic, algebra, geometry.

Grade XI.—English, Latin, Greek, French, German, history, physics, practical mathematics, algebra, geometry.

In each year, English and any other *five* subjects are imperative.

The syllabus for Grade XII will be published in October, after a further recommendation from the Advisory Board.

Two other changes are announced: There are to be no optional questions in the examination papers. Heretofore a common practice has been to set six or eight questions, with leave to answer any five. Also, two hours instead of one hour, as formerly, are allowed for each paper, with no proportionate increase in the length or number of questions. The other contents of the *Journal* are, as usual, of much interest, and contain information, hints and suggestions of value to teachers in other provinces, as well as to those whom they chiefly concern.

FOLLOWING close on the Colonial Conference comes the Federal Conference of the Empire on Education, which meets in London from May 24th to June 1st. This conference will be attended by delegates from all parts of the Empire, who have been authorized by their respective governments to represent their educational departments. There will be official conferences of heads of education departments, general conferences of delegates from educational bodies (universities, boards, museums, teachers' associations, etc.), and open meetings. In addition to these, sections will be formed for discussion of special matters of interest. The following extracts from the suggested programme will

give some idea of the nature and aims of the conference:

I.—BUSINESS SUBJECTS.

- A.—Scheme proposed by the League of the Empire for Federation of the Empire in Education.
- B.—Official recognition of a common central office of Federal Education.
- C.—Future Federal Education Conference.

II.—EDUCATIONAL SUBJECTS.

A.—Teachers.

1. Comparison of (a) the provisions for the supply and training of elementary teachers, and of (b) the conditions of their work in the United Kingdom and other countries of the Empire and Crown Colonies.
 2. Similar comparison in the case of secondary teachers.
 3. Practicability of temporary interchange between the United Kingdom and other countries of the Empire and Crown Colonies.
- B.—The relations between secondary and primary schools in the various countries of the Empire.
 - D.—Co-operation in educational publications.
 - F.—School subjects—English, geography, nature study.
 - G.—Education of non-British races.

All meetings will be held in Caxton Hall, Westminster. The representatives will be entertained by the University of Cambridge on June 5th.

Ian Maclaren.

The death of the author of "Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush" and "Auld Lang Syne," which occurred at Mount Pleasant, Iowa, on May 6th, caused sincere regret among many to whom he was known only by his books; while to the thousands who flocked to hear him at his Liverpool church, or on his lecturing tours, the loss is severe. Dr. John Watson, though of Scottish parentage, was born in England in 1850. He was educated in Scotland and graduated from the University of Edinburgh. He was licensed as a minister of the Free Church in 1874, and his second charge, at Logiealmond, is said to have furnished much of the material for his pictures of "Drumtochty." He began to publish fiction in 1894, and became at once an extremely popular writer, through his skill in presenting types of Scottish character, and the humour and pathos of his stories. He is also known as a theological writer and lecturer. He paid several visits to America, and had gone to Iowa to lecture to the students of Wesleyan University when he was overtaken by the illness which ended in his death.