

THE fact that three-fourths of the students of Harvard University have petitioned the faculty to abolish compulsory attendance upon morning prayers, argues that the faculty have not attempted to exercise any direct influence for the preservation of the traditional custom. The students argue that voluntary attendance would necessarily betoken genuine interest in the religious exercises; that the sense of compulsion produces indifference, if not hostility, to the observance; that whereas the attendance of those whose religious faith is not in harmony with the particular observance is not required, the attendance of no one should be compelled; that the abolition of compulsory attendance upon Sunday services at church, and the remission of compulsory attendance upon prayers twice a week, already conceded, leave no logical ground for the retention of further compulsion on religious matters.—*The Current*.

A MEETING of the colored population of Windsor was held in the basement of the Baptist Church recently. It was called for the purpose of ascertaining the views of the colored people regarding the proposal of the school board to do away with the colored school. Messrs. D. B. Odette, Geo. McPhillips and J. S. Edgar, trustees, and Alex. Bartlet, secretary of the school board, and Messrs. Sinclair and Duncan, high and model school teachers, respectively, were present. The speakers on behalf of the colored people were Messrs. B. Coleman, R. Price, Jos. Odey and Henry Thornton. These were all in favor of abolishing the colored school as a separate institution. They want the color line completely obliterated in educational matters, and a resolution to that effect was unanimously adopted. One of the principal reasons urged for the abolition of the colored school, is that many of the colored people live a long distance from the school, and to reach it are compelled to pass schools which they claim they should be allowed to enter.—*Ex.*

A NEW pension law will go into effect in Prussia in April next, and judging from several inquiries received by the writer, it may be of general interest to state its main features. Until now each province had its own peculiar mode of pensioning teachers. No age, no special limit for the termination of active service was fixed, and the pension was not given before the teacher had become absolutely incapable by old age to continue his duties. The pension then, as a rule, was paid out of the salary attaching to the position, so that, from the salary of the successor a deduction, often amounting to one-third of the entire amount, was made to pension the teacher who had previously held the position. If the remaining amount was insufficient to pay the new teacher, the community, and, if necessary, the government, added to the salary from the public funds. The new law does not fix any special age when the teacher should be entitled to a pension. He has no claim to any pension until it has been adjudged that he is no longer capable to attend to the duties of his position. This conditional right to be pensioned begins only after ten years of service, and at that period the amount of pension to which the teacher is entitled is limited to $\frac{1}{3}$ of the salary which he has been receiving. For each year of teaching

done over and above these ten years the pension is increased by $\frac{1}{10}$, so that after, say forty years of service, the maximum limit of pension, $\frac{4}{10}$, or three-fourths of the regular salary of the position, is reached. The State contributes to this to the limit of about \$150. The rest is taken from the salary of the successor. If the latter's salary is decreased thereby to less than three-fourths of the original amount, the community must make up the deficiency. The large cities, however, have always paid municipal pensions to their teachers in addition to the government pension.—*See pp. 193 and 194 of the Annuaire de l'Enseignement of 1886.*

NORTH ESSEX TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

A VERY successful meeting of the North Essex Teachers' Association was held in the Windsor Central School.

The attendance was good; nearly all the teachers of the riding were present, although the roads were in a very bad condition.

As usual the lessons of the morning sessions of Friday were carried on in French.

Mr. Albert Bondy ably explained the difficult passages in the "Syllabaire mon petit," and Miss Delphine Verduyn gave an admirable lesson on "How to Teach French composition."

The afternoon session opened with a paper and blackboard work on "Drawing," by Mr. Duncan, head master of the Central. Mr. Duncan gave evidence of being well "up" in his subject, and kindly offered to open a free class on Saturdays for such teachers as were desirous of mastering the art. Doctor McLellan, Director of Teachers' Institutes, then took the floor, and in his usual vigorous, clear, and humorous manner gave a fine lesson upon "Reading and Literature."

The entertainment in the Town Hall in the evening was a success.

The presentation "with the Compliments of the North Essex Teachers' Association," of a handsome basket of flowers, was made to each of the ladies who took part in the entertainment.

The work opened Friday morning by Miss Fuller putting forth the plea for the little ones in a paper upon "Should children from five to seven years of age be kept in school six hours a day?"

Mr. Ashdown took the place of Miss Hutton, and gave a composition lesson to a French class.

Doctor McLellan then took up "English Grammar," showing how the subject might be simplified.

In the afternoon, after finishing his lecture upon English Grammar, the Doctor gave an instructive lecture upon "The Teaching of Language. During the day Mr. Ford, of Detroit, visited the convention and gave an address.

Correspondence.

THE ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 4.

To the Editor of the EDUCATIONAL WEEKLY.

SIR,—my solution of question 4 is wrong, as you no doubt see. I took cost of spinning to be 11c. per lb. of wool instead of 11c. per lb. of yarn.

Yours truly,

S. SILCOX.

Promotion Examinations.

CANADIAN HISTORY—THIRD TO FOURTH CLASS.

COUNTY OF LANARK.

1. Explain, County Council, Reeve, Trustee, By-law, Minister of the Crown.
2. Who is the present Premier of Canada? Of the Province of Ontario? Minister of Education? Lieutenant Governor of Ontario?
3. Write a short account of the second voyage of Jacques Cartier to Canada.
4. What is meant by the Company of the Hundred Associates?
5. What is a 'monopoly'? To whom were monopolies granted?
6. Write notes on the Six Nations, Customs of Paris, Union of 1840, Frontenac, Tecumseh.
7. What important events happened in 1492, 1497, 1535, 1812, 1867.

COUNTY OF PEEL.

1. Write brief notes on Cabot, Champlain, Wolfe, Brock, Egerton Ryerson, Sir John Macdonald, Edward Blake, Louis Riel.
2. What is Representative Government, and when was it introduced into Canada?
3. Write explanatory notes on: Washington Treaty, Quebec Act, and Reciprocity Treaty.
4. State what you understand by the following: Responsible Government; an Act of Parliament; a Bill; to Prorogue Parliament; Dissolve Parliament.
5. When was the Dominion of Canada formed? Of what Provinces did it then consist? What Provinces have been added since. Give Dates.
6. The Legislative body of Quebec is differently constituted from that of Ontario. Explain the difference.

SOUTH GREY.

1. What nation deserves the honor of sending out the real discoverers of Canada? Name their two great discoverers, and the parts they visited.
2. Name and give the position of the first two towns founded in Canada, stating the founder, with dates.
3. Name the first, last, and most notable of the French Governors.
4. What gave rise to the wars by which England gained Canada? What three important places were taken near the close of the war, and by what treaty was Canada ceded to the British? Date.
5. What caused the rebellion of 1837, and what resulted from it?
6. When was the British North America Act passed, and for what purpose?
7. Who is the present Governor-General of Canada? the Premier? the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario? the Premier of Ontario?