

of recent geographical research, presented in bold outline, and with all the aids that modern mechanical skill can supply. With the execution of the maps furnished to the schools by the Ontario Education Department we have little fault to find, though their construction might be improved were competition admitted in their manufacture and supply to the Department. Their chief demerit has been a want of scrupulous care in compilation, and an excessive tardiness in adapting them to the changes which political circumstances from time to time have occasioned. With such maps as are issued by Messrs. W. & A. K. Johnston, of Edinburgh,—not to instance those of other houses,—always abreast of the time, and of the highest character, both as to construction and mechanism, there is no reason why our schools should not be furnished with a satisfactory equipment of good maps. The maps of our own country, however, we must necessarily ourselves produce; and here again, though we have not much fault to find with the construction and execution of those issued by the Department, our complaint is that they are rarely ever up with the times. The schools have long been promised revision of these maps; and with the creation of new Provinces, the enlargement of the boundary of others, and the general filling up of the country, there is urgent necessity that the series should be overhauled and speedily be issued for the use of the schools. If the Department cannot expedite the production of these new issues, might not the Minister throw open their manufacture to trade competition? Much, in any case, we think, would be gained by this course, and we would respectfully call the Minister's attention to the suggestion.

THE *Institut Géographique de Paris*, we notice, has just issued a Map of the World prepared by M. E. Lavasseur, and published in four sheets at a cost of \$3.50, which possesses so many features of excellence as to make it an object of interest and a desirable possession to Canadian teachers who seek to have efficient tools with which to work.

In the Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society for the present month, we find the following notice of the map, which we transcribe for the information of our readers. The *critique* says:—

"This is a map of the Physical and Political Geography of the World, the physical features of which are very clearly shewn. There are seven diagrams which indicate the comparative areas of the oceans, continents and their populations, human races, and religions, the commerce of the several continents and their principal divisions, together with the length of their existing railways; in addition to these, are given contours of each of the great divisions of the earth, sections of the ocean bottoms, rain, wind, and temperature charts; the comparative lengths of all the principal rivers of the World, the principal projects of inter-oceanic canals, plan of the Isthmus of Suez, etc., as well as the different scales of measurement of England, France, Germany and Russia. It is seldom that any one map contains so much information, and the bold style in which it is coloured is well adapted for educational purposes."

THE CONFERENCE OF ENGLISH HEAD-MASTERS.

The annual conference of head-masters was held at Eton, England, on December 19 and 20, under the presidency of Dr. Hornby. The first subject brought forward was the Teaching of Modern Languages, papers on which, by Mr. Bowen, of Harrow, and Mr. Bull, of Marlborough, had been already circulated among members of the conference. The opener of the discussion held that the disciplinary value of French and German was similar in kind, but inferior in degree, to that of classical training; that if an average boy, with comparatively short time for study, were trained in modern languages, his attainments, besides being practically useful, were more likely to serve as a basis for future study; and that scholarly, intellectual teaching was indispensable. In the course of the discussion, Dr. Butler pointed out the difference between the intellectual effort required to turn English into a modern language and that demanded by the writing of Latin prose. The latter he