

S. D. POPE, Esq.

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION, BRITISH COLUMBIA.

It gives us pleasure to observe that another Ontario teacher has made his mark abroad—this time in the person of Mr. S. D. Pope, who has lately been appointed Chief Superintendent of Education for British Columbia.

Mr. Pope is a native of Ontario, having been born in the county of Hastings in 1843. He graduated at Queen's, by special dispensation, at the very early age of eighteen, after a brilliant university career, and was styled "The Boy Bachelor."

After some solicitation on the part of the trustees, he accepted the headmastership of what was then called the United Grammar and Common Schools of Stirling, Ont., which position he filled with much acceptance for three years, when he became desirous of seeing the Far West. Resigning the situation, he finally settled in Oregon, where he married. Here he remained for twelve years, after which he removed to his adopted province.

It could not be expected that the highest positions would open to him at sight, and the reverse was the case; but while the discouragements were many, as is the case in every new country, and facilities for enjoyment and comfort few, yet that same determined perseverance that was evinced during his university course carried him on, and in the short space of eight years we find him at the head of the educational affairs of our noble sister province.

In laying the foundation for a wise educational system he will have many difficulties to contend against and numerous discouragements to meet, not to speak of numberless attacks by opponents of reform and advancement; but we trust that with a stout heart and strong hand, such as were displayed by our late lamented chief, Dr. Ryerson, whose fame is in even his enemies' mouths, the cause of education will continue to advance until British Columbia can boast of educational advantages inferior to none in our fair Dominion.

We wish Mr. Pope continued success, and congratulate him on his well-deserved promotion to so distinguished a position. The field before him "is white unto the harvest," while the position is pregnant with responsibility, for the educational well-being of so great a country is no easy burden to bear.

#### WOMEN IN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

The Educational *Monthly* evidently regards with a very unfavorable eye the admission of women to Toronto University College. Three female students and a matron are, according to the *Monthly*, all that the movement has to show for the disturbance created. Our contemporary is of course entitled to its own opinion as to the expediency of admitting women to the Provincial College, but there is no excuse for its misrepresentation of the facts of the case. Instead of three there have been seven women in attendance during the greater part of the present term, and this number will be increased to at least eleven after the Christmas holidays. In view of the fact that the announcement of the opening of the College to

women was made on the first of October, the first day of the session, the number of female students is surprisingly large.

Not less so is the high average of their academical standing. There are three in the fourth year, one taking the honor work in classics, and the other two in modern languages. There is one in the third year, taking the honor work in modern languages and mental and moral science. There is one in the second year, taking honor work in natural science and in mental science, and of the two in the first year one takes honor work in mathematics and modern languages. Those coming in next term will probably keep up this high average. In point of fact, therefore, the women who have availed themselves of the advantages afforded by the changed, and now liberal policy of the Government and the College Council, are of a more than usually intellectual type, and their future standing will no doubt be such as to reflect credit on themselves, their sex, and the institution.

It is gratifying to be able to bear the most unreserved testimony to the perfectly unexceptionable conduct of the young men who have hitherto had a monopoly of University College. They have been quietly courteous and gentlemanly, as those who knew them best expected they would be, and there is not the slightest ground for the fear that they will ever be anything else. If there were on the part of individuals here and there a disposition to act otherwise they would soon find themselves sharply dealt with by the sound public opinion of the students generally.

The *Monthly* seeks to create a prejudice against those young women who have sought for and obtained leave to attend lectures in University College, and urges the erection of a separate institution for such women as may desire a university training. To this latter proposal no one offers any objection, but under existing circumstances it is asking too much of women who are willing to attend the Provincial College to require them to wait for the establishment of one for their special use. Those who believe in such a college are at liberty to work for it and wait for it. But while they are agitating for what they want they must be taught that people as intelligent and respectable as they are, are not to be sneered at with impunity because they choose to avail themselves of educational facilities already in existence. It is safe to assert that if separate lectures were given to women in a separate college, few, if any, of those now in University College would go to hear them, on account of a very natural and probably well-founded impression that for university purposes the lectures delivered in University College were superior to those delivered anywhere else.

#### THE SCHOOL LAW OF ONTARIO.

It was a matter of current report, when the health of the Hon. Adam Crooks gave way a few months ago, that he had for some time been engaged at the task of consolidating the various Education Acts, probably with amendments. The last consolidation was made in 1877, when the general statutes of the Provincial Legislature were revised. Since that time several changes have taken place in the school law, and it would be of great convenience to the public if the Hon. G. W. Ross would