

not less than eleven or twelve separate organizations for the representation of as many different classes of educators and subjects of study and instruction. These sections represent, for instance, the specialists in English, in History, in Natural Science, in the Greek and Latin Classics, in Mathematics, and so forth. There are also the Inspectors, the Trustees, the College and High school and the Public school sections, etc. The result of the regular meetings of some of these sections throughout the year, and of the annual assemblage of representatives of each and all of them, cannot fail to exert a powerful effect upon the various educational interests which they have, respectively, in charge. Whether the plan of having the anniversary of the Provincial and that of the Dominion Association, held at the same time and place may perhaps be open to question, unless a much longer time can be given to the meetings than the two or three days which have been hitherto allotted.

The Dominion Association.

While it is the business of the members of the Provincial Association coming from different parts of this wide Province, and representing various grades and phases of its educational work, to compare notes on methods of teaching and discipline, discuss the merits and demerits of text-books, school laws, departmental regulations, etc., within the Province, the Dominion Association may be expected to take a much wider range. This society is just now holding only its second annual meeting; hence has hardly been long enough in existence to enable us to judge from its past record of the prospects of its future success and usefulness. It has, however, already undertaken one enterprise, which, if successfully carried out, can hardly fail to be of permanent use and value to the Dominion. We refer to its standing offer of prizes for the best manuscripts of a comprehensive history of Canada. The extended time-limit for the handing in of these manuscripts has not yet expired, so that it is too soon to form a judgment as to the probable results. It is understood that a number of competitors are hard at work, and it is but reasonable to expect that a better book for school purposes than any yet in the market will be the outcome. It will not be without its advantages if even a fairly good book shall be provided, which may be adopted in the schools all over the Dominion. One tendency of the study of such a work will be towards drawing the growing citizens of the different Provinces nearer together, by making those of distant localities better acquainted with each other's history and characteristics. The great distances by which the extremities of Canada are separated from each other, and the consequent expense in money and time required in order to the representation of all parts of the Dominion will be found, no doubt, a serious obstacle to the success of the national association. We may be able to form some opinion as to the degree in which these can be overcome when we learn the outcome of the present meeting. It is possible that experience may prove it expedient to attempt only triennial, or quadrennial meetings of the larger Association. We may be permitted to add that it would, in our opinion, conduce much to the highest success and usefulness of this movement, if the various universities and colleges, as well as the Public and High Schools, could be induced to take a hearty interest in it.

Ownership of Street Railways.

The Legislative Assembly of New York has, by a vote which was practically unanimous (seventy to three), passed a bill submitting the question of the municipal ownership of street railways to the votes of the citizens of the principal cities of

the States. A companion bill provides for an official investigation into the cost and the capitalization of these lines. The meaning and possible effect of this latter bill, which was, of course, bitterly denounced by the newspapers representing the railway corporations, may be inferred in part from an editorial in the *Engineering News*, a leading technical paper of New York, in which it is stated that the franchises of the Third and Fourth Avenue roads are so valuable that the entire cost of the fixed plant is more than earned every year. Quoting this statement, *The Outlook* reminds its readers that the Jacob Sharp trial, a few years ago, "brought out the confession that over \$2,000,000 of bonds of the Broadway line were issued on an equipment costing only \$150,000." Such facts as these are very suggestive as to what might be done in the way of cheapening travel between the heart of a great city and the outlying country districts—thereby removing, to a great extent, the evils which result from overcrowding in the neighbourhoods of the great manufacturing establishments—by municipal ownership of these roads, if citizens could but be trusted to elect honourable and capable men as aldermen. But there's the rub. There's the consideration which makes so many of the best citizens willing rather to bear the ills they have than fly to others which they know not of, or rather of which they know too well.

The University Commission

It would be highly improper to make any attempt to anticipate the results of the University Commission, and we have no intention of doing so; but some reflections are suggested by the facts which have already been made public. On the whole the prevailing feeling is one of simple astonishment that the University authorities should have allowed matters to get to this length, or to take this shape. Some of the young gentlemen who testified declared that they were not "agitators," and that what they had done was merely for the good of the University. Any one who should now hope for such a result must be very sanguine. It is a very serious thing that there should be a wide-spread rebellion among the students; but on this point there can now be no doubt at all. The disaffection among the students is deep and wide-spread. Now, it cannot be denied that such disaffection or even rebellion has sometimes arisen without serious fault on the part of the authorities. But if, in some cases, there has been no proved injustice, there has generally been conspicuous incapacity; and the question will now occur as to whether there has been such want of capacity in the government and teaching of the University of Toronto.

The United States Income Tax.

The Supreme Court of the United States has given its decision on the constitutionality of the Income Tax by piecemeal. The court is unanimous in declaring the clause taxing incomes from State and municipal bonds unconstitutional. This is a question which turns upon the constitutional relations between the individual States and the Federal Government, and is, therefore, of no special interest to outsiders, unless it be by reason of its bearing upon the question which seems to be forcing itself upon the attention of the nation, to what extent a cast-iron constitution is compatible with self-government. The court was equally divided in regard to the constitutionality of the law as a whole, which is, we suppose, equivalent to a refusal to pronounce an income tax unconstitutional in principle. The most interesting side of the three-part decision is that in which the court, by a majority of five to three, decided that incomes derived from rents cannot be taxed, unless on certain conditions not met by the act in question. As this decision not only cuts off