

There seems to be a screw loose in the Nova Scotia school system, and some of the Nova Scotian educationists seem either unwilling or unable to tighten it. There is no province in the Dominion of Canada outside of British Columbia in which Normal School training is not a recognized element in its educational system. In New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Quebec (on the Protestant side) every teacher has now to pass through a course of professional training. And this has long been virtually the case in Ontario with its splendidly equipped Normal Schools and its numerous Model Schools. But in Nova Scotia there is still the option of attending the Normal School, a state of affairs which one would hardly expect to find in a province whose Common School progress began with the Normal School energies of Dr. Forrester.

The University of Cambridge has lately conferred the degree of M.A. (*causa honoris*) on two of the prominent officers of the Educational Association of England. The recognition of the schoolmaster comes slowly, but not less slowly in Canada it seems than in Great Britain. The next Governor-General is sure to get his doctorship from every University in the land, but where is the Canadian University that would ever think of conferring even an honorary M.A. upon the President of a Canadian Teachers' Association?

Few have any idea of the terrible rooting out there is for students in India, between the University entrance examination and the final for B.A. Last year 5,989 candidates presented themselves for matriculation and 3,193 passed. On the first examination in Arts only 1,418

succeeded in passing, and at the final only 425 survived. The system that declares so many people incapable of being educated is surely either too wide or too intense in its scope. The proportion of imbeciles in the world is surely not so large as it is in India. If McGill University in the elaboration of its *curricula* should force our minor Canadian Universities to outdo it in the width and intensity of its course, our young Canadians may find themselves under the same suspicion of imbecility which the young Indians do. A University body which adds to its course until its own professors confess that such a course cannot be accomplished in the time must surely have some other object in view than the training of our youth. Perhaps a composite examining board would induce a mean in this kind of University expansion.

From a report on the Training Colleges of England, we read that the movement in the direction of a higher standard of comfort and refinement proceeds at a steadily advancing rate. But the *School Guardian* seems to think that there is room for improvement in the teaching of French, if the examining revisors' reports are to be trusted. Of the manner, for instance, in which the words, "Une grenouille vit un bœuf, Qui lui sembla de belle taille," were translated by certain candidates, the following are amusing specimens: "A greengrocer lived on beef, which seemed to her beautiful cut"; "one person with a girl who resembles a tail belle"; "a geraffe (*sic*) lives on beef which seems to him good taste"; "an ugly piece of beef which looks like the beautiful tail", and "an old woman kept a cow who thought she had a pretty tail."

The class which retires this year