

The meeting of the Dominion Educational Association will be held in Ottawa on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 14th, 15th and 16th. It is three years nearly since the Association met at Halifax, and the excellence of that meeting is fresh in the minds of all who attended. Under the able presidency of Dr. MacCabe, principal of the Ottawa Normal School, no effort will be spared to make next summer's meeting surpass any previous one both in interest and numbers. The presence of a thousand teachers is looked for. It is hoped there will be a good attendance from these provinces. The attractions of the capital and the opportunity to take in the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo will help to make the trip one of great educational interest as well as a recreation.

MESSRS. STEINBERGER, HENDRY & Co., of Toronto, have issued a very neat and serviceable calendar, mounted on a card edition of their commercial and school wall map of the Dominion.

WHEN we think of the long reign of Queen Victoria—nearly sixty-four years—we can scarcely realize that any one now alive has lived in five reigns, that of George III, George IV, William IV, Victoria, and Edward VII. But a person whose eighty-first birthday occurred between the 22nd and 29th of January last would enjoy that distinction. On the 29th of January, 1820, George III died, and on the 22nd of January, 1901, Edward VII became King. One of the most conspicuous examples, however, among our public men is that of Senator Wark, of Fredericton, who is now ninety-seven years of age, and who was sixteen years old when George III died.

SEVERAL ladies in Halifax a few years ago organized a Ladies' Auxiliary to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. They adopt various methods to secure the object in view, one of the most effective being the presentation of prizes to the school children of Halifax and Dartmouth for the best essays on "Kindness to Animals." In their report for this year they say: "Two hundred and fifty-six essays were sent in, of which the average merit was so high that additional prizes had to be awarded, bringing the number of successful competitors up to one hundred and twelve. This was a great advance on last year, when only eighty-four essays were received. We are glad also to say that in the opinion of the ladies and gentlemen who acted as judges, there was a vast improvement, both in the manner and the matter of the work sent in; there was less sentimentality, more common sense, and, on the whole, a grasp of the subject most gratifying to the reading committee." Is not this work of the Halifax ladies worthy of being imitated elsewhere?

### Compulsory Education.

There is a movement, confined as yet to the City of St. John, to ask the New Brunswick legislature to pass a compulsory school law. It is claimed for the City of St. John—and the same is probably true of other cities and towns in the province—that many of the children are not receiving the advantages that the free schools afford, and that the parents of these children are indifferent, if not culpably negligent. A law that would leave it optional with any section of the province to adopt compulsory education would undoubtedly be a step in advance, and perhaps pave the way in time for the passage of a more stringent measure that would make compulsory attendance general, without option. But considering the laxity of country districts in Nova Scotia to take advantage of the law, we may assume that there would be an equal laxity in New Brunswick. But in cities and towns where there are more temptations to truancy, and where there exist greater opportunities to withdraw children from school and put them to work, it is imperative that there should be some act empowering the local authorities to deal with this matter, and lessen an evil that has undoubtedly assumed considerable proportions in St. John as well as other cities of the province.

The Compulsory School Act for Nova Scotia provides that any section may compel the attendance at school for one hundred and twenty days of all children from six to fourteen years of age, whose education is not otherwise satisfactorily provided for. Quite a number of sections have adopted the act, but it can scarcely be said to have had any good effect; first, because trustees of small sections cannot be found to enforce the penalties against their neighbors; and secondly, because the province has failed to provide any suitable institution to which truants can be sentenced.

Halifax has a special act relating to truants. It provides that every child from six to fourteen, or to sixteen, if not at work, must attend school every school day. If a pupil is absent ten days without excuse his parents may be prosecuted. If a child is reported absent without excuse, his parent or guardian is notified in writing. Prosecution follows upon a second offense. If the parent is unable to cause his child to attend school, the child is sentenced to a reformatory, but the carrying out of the sentence is suspended during regular attendance. If he offends again he is immediately placed in a reformatory without further trial. Protestant children are sent to the Protestant Industrial School,