

terms of the enthusiasm with which the students entered into the work. The students took charge of different departments in rotation, and towards graduation they were given charge of the whole farm.

Prof. Smith has worked in the face of difficulties for some years to establish the school of agriculture on a firm basis, and we congratulate him on the success of his efforts. That his success will be still more marked in the near future is very evident when his energy and the entire confidence he has in the importance of the work are taken into account.

IN a recent issue of the *Auk*, the ornithological journal of America, interesting notes of a trip through the Bestigouche Valley are given by Messrs: John Brittain, of the Normal School, Fredericton, and Philip Cox, Jr., of the Newcastle High School. The following description of the river valley is given:

"The greater part of the valley is in about latitude 48° N. The country is undulating, in some places mountainous, and almost an unbroken forest. Winter is very severe, snow falls to a great depth and lingers until May, while chilly east winds, from the Bay Gulf, make spring late and cold. Summer, however, is warm, except near the sea, where it is tempered by cool breezes; yet the nights, even in July, and far up the valley, are occasionally frosty and cold enough to form ice."

The following notes in regard to rare birds visiting the Province will prove of interest to ornithologists:

The *Pipilo maculatus* pine grosbeak, has been regarded as an exceedingly rare summer resident, some ornithologists even doubting that it nests within the limits of the Province. At nearly every camping ground, however, and at other points, we either saw or heard it, and a few miles below the mouth of the Kedgwick found a nest containing one egg and three young. The nest was placed in a crevice of a rock, under a projecting shelf, and was partly concealed by weeds. The location was a cool one, for it was within a few feet of the water, on moist rock, and well protected from the sun's rays.

The *Sporus pinus* pine finch, has heretofore been regarded as only a casual summer resident, but we found it quite common, especially about lumber camps and anglers' quarters, where flocks of ten to fifteen were often seen. It is very tame

ONTARIO AHEAD.

The following extracts from a report of the recent changes in the Ontario school system are so much in line with the drift of thought in the discussion at the Nova Scotia Provincial Association meeting a few months ago, on the matter of assimilating the non-professional requirements of our various grades of teachers' certificates with the High School curriculum, that we cannot do a better service than to quote them.

TEACHERS' CERTIFICATES.—The examination subjects for Third Class are those now prescribed for the Primary examination; for Second Class, those now prescribed for the Junior Leaving examination; and for First Class Certificates, those now prescribed for the Senior Leaving examination.

Graduation in Arts, after a regular course in any chartered University in the British Dominion, will now be accepted as the equivalent of First Class Certificate non-professional.

The *Northwestern* of Toronto, commenting on this change, in a recent issue, says:

As will be seen by the report, on another page, of the annual meeting of the Ontario Teachers' Association, the proposal to establish a system of "Leaving" Examinations at the termination of the high school courses, has been approved by the high school masters, and endorsed by the Minister of Education. By the way, cannot a better descriptive title be found for these examinations? The change is in the right direction, and we are glad it seems likely to be brought about with general consent.

The scheme outlined by the high school masters includes, if we understand it, three distinct grades of examination papers, corresponding to which three grades of certificates are to be awarded, equivalent respectively to the present Third Class, Second Class and First Class C Certificates. The details of the scheme are given elsewhere. Whether it will involve a discontinuance of the present system, by which the Junior Matriculation Pass and Honor examination papers are used for Second and First C examinations, respectively, whether, on the other hand, these papers will be adopted for the Junior and Senior High School examinations, or finally, whether the university authorities will decide to accept the certificates awarded at the "Leaving" examinations, *pro tanto*, in lieu of their own matriculation examinations, remains to be seen. As the plan now about to be adopted was advocated by the Principal and Professors of Queen's University, the High School certificates will almost certainly be accepted by that institution. Victoria and Trinity have also, it is understood, expressed themselves as in favor of uniform examinations, and will it may reasonably be inferred, accept these as embodying that principle. We confidently assume, of course, that the examiners to be appointed will be chosen on some system that will commend itself to the universities, and inspire general confidence. McMaster has already virtually settled the question, so far as her Arts Department is concerned, by deciding to accept the certificate of the headmaster of any high school or collegiate institute that a given student has satisfactorily completed certain subjects, in lieu of a matriculation examination in those subjects.

We may reasonably hope that the change will prove beneficial to the high schools, and to secondary education in the province. In order to effect this in the highest degree, it is, in our opinion, extremely desirable that the courses and examinations shall be so conducted as to remove, as far as possible, the impression that the one great end and aim of the secondary schools is to prepare students for the universities, and for the teaching and other learned professions. Some of the high school principals, we are glad to see, clearly recognize the desirability of this, though the proposal to make the projected examinations correspond with the requirements of the present teachers' examinations, suggests the opposite idea. The certificates to be awarded should, in each case, represent an educational course more or less complete in itself, and thus suited as a preparation for any occupation or industry. In a word, the high school graduate we do not like that word in this connection, but cannot recall a better, should, even if unable to pursue his studies farther, go forth into the community as a well educated and intelligent man or woman; one whose faculties, perception, rational and moral, have been thoroughly trained, and who is therefore, well prepared for the duties and responsibilities of citizenship in a free, self-ruling state.