

**LONDON UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS.**—In response to several urgent requests for the continuance of Halifax as an examination centre for the London University, the only station not only in Canada but on the continent, the Provincial Government has consented to the continuance, subject to a local charge of \$10 in addition to the fees to be transmitted to the University.

**MACDONALD CONSOLIDATION SCHOOL.**—The special Act for the consolidation school at Middleton is given on page 69. This will not be a model for a general law, for the general law of the province previously in existence is better. Prof Jas. W. Robertson is presenting to Middleton from Sir Wm. Macdonald a model building (the plans of which are now nearly completed) and the vans for the conveyance of the pupils to school. The Act provides for the return of the sections to the old status at the end of the three year trial. \$36,000 has been voted to encourage general consolidation—\$2,000 for each county. The best manner of applying this aid can hardly be determined until the Middleton experiment proves the cost of conveyance and other moot points. As soon as the Middleton experiment goes into operation, the facts and figures of cost will be published for the information of the whole province. The general provincial consolidation laws may also be further amended after the observation of this experiment.

**PROVINCIAL CONSOLIDATION SCHOOLS.**—Our law has for over three years given full power for the permanent consolidation of schools by the District School Commissioners. Later, authority was expressly given to assess for the cost of conveying children to school (see page 69).

Any town, village or central section can now promise outlying sections to provide free conveyance of their children to school in vans to be approved by the educational authorities. These sections will have to assume the regular share of taxation for the building of the school house, the payment of teachers and the cost of conveyance. The central section will have the school buildings and teachers, but no more of them than the outlying sections. The outlying sections will have nearly the whole of the use of the vans at the expense of the consolidated section. Then again, the property of the town, village or central section, will, as a rule, be not only greater, but also valued more highly on account of its central position. The central section must therefore bear the greater portion of the expense. The proper presentation of the case by a central section should therefore readily win the consent of the outlying sections.

The cost of conveyance will vary with local conditions. As the consolidated school can do advanced work, the driver may in many cases be an advanced pupil who will leave the van near the school until he returns at the close of the school.

The advantages and disadvantages of this consolidation system, as felt in Iowa, are very fully set forth in the April JOURNAL of 1902, beginning at page 67. Perhaps this article—a summary of Superintendent Barrett's report on the subject—may be more widely read this year than last year.

**MANUAL TRAINING GRANTS.**—While we should be very grateful to Sir William Macdonald for his gift of a Mechanic Science equipment and teachers to Truro, and the advertising of the advantages of hand training; the people should remember that the Council of Public Instruction of Nova Scotia was in advance not only of other provinces, but of Macdonald's act. In 1891 mechanic science was introduced into the Halifax schools; in 1893 into the Normal school; and in 1900 it was co-ordinated with domestic science, first introduced in 1897 into Halifax. The law of 1900 made one of the most liberal provisions in any country, for, on one side, but both sides of manual training—that is, for the side most useful to boys and the side most useful to girls.

**NATURE STUDY,** which has for many years been on our course of study without being understood by the vast majority of our teachers, has also caught the attention of Sir William Macdonald through Professor Robertson's insight into the value of educational methods and subjects. Professor Robertson's work now is to train teachers who understand how to teach the subject effectively. Percy J. Shaw, B. A., has been selected for the nature study work in a group of schools; and Geo. B. McGill has been selected for the principalship of the Middleton consolidated school. With similar able men from the other provinces these men have been studying at the expense of Sir William Macdonald at the leading scientific institutions of the continent,—first at the University of Chicago, then at Cornell, now at Columbia in New York, and this spring they will complete their course at Guelph, in the