

COMPOSITION.

NOTE.—The letter and the essay are both required, and will constitute 66 per cent. of the value of the paper. Candidates will not sign their names to the letter.

1. Write a letter, of at least thirty lines, from Toronto, dated July 1st, to a former school fellow who has been residing for the past year in Edinburgh.

2. Write an essay, of at least sixty lines, on any one of the following subjects :

- (a) The Crusaders.
- (b) England in the time of Richard I.
- (c) Trial by combat.
- (d) The reading of novels.

THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICA ACT—DECENNIAL CENSUS.

PETER MCEACHERN, B.A.

The representation for Quebec in the House of Commons is fixed at 65 members. After the census is taken the population of Quebec is divided by 65 to find the unit of representation for the other provinces. For 1892 the unit is $1,488,586 \div 65 = 22,901\frac{1}{5}$ nearly. After the re-adjustment that is to be provided for during the present session, Ontario will as before have 92 members. Should the population of any other province fail to keep pace with that of Quebec during the interval between 1881 and 1891 such province is liable to have its representation reduced. Such a reduction may not be made unless

$$\frac{\text{population of Province in 1881}}{\text{population of Dominion in 1881}} < \frac{\text{population of Province in 1891}}{\text{population of Dominion in 1891}} = \frac{1}{20}.$$

The Standard for increasing the representation of a province in the commons is the ratio of the population of that province to the population of Quebec. The standard

for diminishing the representation of a province, other than Quebec, is the ratio of the population of such province to that of Canada as determined by two consecutive censuses.

Within certain limits, the representation in the Senate of new provinces west of Ontario depends on population.

A part of the annual subsidies, given by the Dominion Government to the provinces, consists of a grant of 80 cents per head of the population by the census of 1861. The B. N. A. provides that, for New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, this rate shall continue until the population of each shall reach 400,000. Although the subsidies to some provinces have been increased since 1867, such increases were evidently not contemplated in B. N. A., 1867, sec. 118.

Executive Power, Section 9 :

"The Executive Government and Authority of and over Canada is hereby declared to continue and be vested in the Queen."

"The Executive Government and Authority" here mentioned is generally exercised by the Governor-General acting by and with the advice of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada which means the Dominion Cabinet.

The chief functions of the executive are summoning, proroguing and dissolving Parliament; administering the oaths of allegiance and office; transmission by the Governor-General to the Imperial Government of copies of all laws assented to by him, or reserved for royal consideration; pardoning of criminals; appointment and removal of public officers; and the command-in-chief of all military and naval forces in Canada.

The duties of the Governor-General are now, for the most part, defined in the royal commission issued to him and in letters patent and instructions sent to him by the Imperial Government.

(To be continued.)