

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

The Board of Trustees for Charlottetown has been increased in the number of its members, by the election of Messrs. McDonald, Handrahan, and Hodgson. These gentlemen were elected by the City Council.

A graded school has been opened at Georgetown, and another is about to be organized at Mount Stewart.

The teachers of Prince Edward County propose to hold their Institute in June, when it is expected that the Board of Education will grant them the privilege of attending without a deduction being taken from the usual allowance. A general Association of Teachers for the whole Province will probably be organized in the spring.

The calendar of the University of Halifax has been received. Much interest is taken in the welfare of this institution, as it opens up a course of study which can be accomplished by the young men of the Island, who can now work for a college degree without going to other Provinces for their education. The plan adopted is similar to that of the London University, an institution which has stirred up the ambition of thousands of young men who were unable to provide for a term at college.

The male students of the Normal School have established a Debating and Mutual Improvement Society, of which Mr. George Harris is president, and Mr. John T. McNeill is Secretary. They hold meetings once a week to discuss matters referring to the profession they are about to enter. The last subject under discussion was, "Which is the better plan—to pay the teachers altogether from the public treasury, or to pay them according to the enactments of the present law?"

The House of Assembly met on the 14th of March. In the Governor's Speech, the new system of education inaugurated last July was referred to.

During the discussion of the address, the majority of the members congratulated the country on its progress in education; while several of those who had opposed the passing of the Act said they were willing to give the new system a fair trial. The sanction of the Governor-General, received some months ago from Ottawa, has hushed the excitement arising from the supposition by some that the Act was unconstitutional. As has been remarked, the people are now only anxious to co-operate in making the schools what they ought to be.

The Education Report has been issued. It contains the usual information in regard to the working of the system, the Inspector's Reports, and the Reports of the Board of Trustees of Charlottetown and Summerside. In the former town a new school has been opened in the large brick edifice formerly occupied by the Christian Brothers. This institution has been graded into four departments, is attended by over two hundred pupils, and is known as the Queen's Square School. The teachers are Messrs. Curran, McElmeel and McDonald. In Summerside the Trustees have made arrangements, by the sale of debentures, for the erection of a large district school in their town. In the meantime, Messrs. Gunn and Morrison, with their colleagues, are making praiseworthy efforts to raise the standard of education in their district.

"I am happy to be able to inform you that the Public Schools Act, 1877, has received the assent of the Governor-General, and is now in full operation. Its results, so far, especially in the towns, have been very satisfactory, and I am rejoiced to know that, under its provisions, a large increase has taken place in the number of schools in operation, as well as in the number of children receiving instruction.

"The Normal School in Charlottetown is now upon a satisfactory footing, and is attended by as large a number of pupil teachers as the accommodation will permit. The proper training of these teachers will offer one of the best guarantees for the efficiency and improvement of our public schools in the future. Papers relating to this matter will be laid before you.

"The practical working of the School Act and of the assessment law has suggested a few amendments, which will be submitted for your approval."

MANITOBA.

It seems that the Committee appointed by the Council of the University of Montreal, to consider and report on the course of study and examinations for degrees, found considerable difficulty in the course of studies, and from the different prominence of individual subjects, in the English and French colleges and universities. The French members of the Council are almost all, if not

all, graduates of Laval, and with the system of that university alone do they seem to be acquainted. To show the difference of system, it may be mentioned that the French members were in favor of having in the curriculum an amount of Greek and Latin that almost appalled the English members, many of them good classical scholars. After a good deal of discussion it transpired that the St. Boniface representatives expected the candidates to be permitted to take their lexicons into the examination hall and have their assistance in disposing of the passages presented.

Another point to which the French members took strong objection was specifying text-books in any case where, by merely stating the subject, any one of several text-books might be used. However, in most of the subjects, with the exception of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, it was thought desirable to give definiteness to the course by prescribing certain works.

To meet, in some measure, the want of trained teachers in Winnipeg, the School Board has, at the suggestion of the Principal, Mr. Fletcher, authorized the closing of all the schools at 3 p.m. on Friday of every week, the next hour to be spent under his direction in discussing school management and discipline, and the methods of teaching the various subjects on the programme. The plan has been very successful so far.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

In the generally expressed desire for governmental retrenchment, and for bringing expenditure within the revenue, legislative attention is being called, among other branches of the Public Service, to that of Education. A motion was brought up in the House to "disestablish" the High School in Victoria, on account of the expense, but after one postponement it was abandoned. Much to the regret of advocates for free education in the higher as well as the lower branches, a monthly fee will probably be imposed on High School pupils, so as to lessen the burden on the school grant. The abolition of this indispensable adjunct to any liberal free school system is, however, entirely out of the question, judging from the published remarks elicited by the introduction of a motion asking for the names and occupations of parents sending to the High School.

As the school grant is not likely to be larger than that of last year, namely \$46,000, some of the smallest schools in the outlying districts will have to be discontinued temporarily. Hitherto, current expenses connected with schools, such as the items for fuel, cleaning, &c., &c., have all been paid out of the general revenue. Those charges must hereafter be defrayed by municipalities and trustee boards. The office of Deputy Superintendent is also to be abolished. The School Act will be amended in order to give effect to these contemplated changes.

FOREIGN.

The Maryland State Board of Education regards such an enactment as this essential to reaching the proper standard: "No person shall be employed as a teacher at the public expense until he has learned how to teach."

Girard College has been enlarged, so that there is room for 920 scholars in addition to the 550 formerly accommodated. Children born in Philadelphia have had the preference of admission, and until now the College has confined its usefulness to the State of Pennsylvania, but recently the doors have been thrown open to fatherless boys born in New York. The income of the Girard estate applicable to the purpose of College improvements and support amounts to about \$400,000 a year.

The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine in Paris states, in answer to an inquiry from the Dean of the London School of Medicine, that since 1865 thirty-two women have entered the school. Of this number nine have obtained diplomas and twenty-three are still at their studies. The nationality of the students was: English, six; Russian, twelve; and French, five. The Dean says that the conduct of these ladies and their devotion to their studies have been blameless.

—Don't punish often. If you are obliged to resort to frequent punishment among your scholars, you may very wisely and reasonably come to the conclusion that you have mistaken your calling.