

M.A., late Head Master of the Normal school, and expressing sympathy with his family was passed. A resolution was carried to take steps to procure an extension of the holidays to four weeks. Professor Grahame of St. Francis College, Quebec, then addressed the association; and in the evening, the Rev. Dr. Jeffers. The University was visited in the afternoon on the invitation of the Rev. Dr. McCaul. On the 9th, delegates from various county teachers' associations, addressed the association, respecting progress made. A resolution was adopted in favour of the discontinuance of county and circuit Boards of Public Instruction, and the appointment of "Superintendents (or government Inspectors), who have been at least first class common school teachers or grammar school teachers, to be nominated by the county council, and appointed by the Council of Public Instruction for each county of Ontario—three or five of such superintendents forming a central Board of Examiners to grant certificates to teachers in their respective circuits, limiting such certificates to the county or township, according to their judgment, or making them valid for the whole circuit—and to require each Board to elect annually or otherwise, one of its members to act in their behalf as a central Board of Examiners, formed of such elective superintendents, having power to grant provincial certificates to such teachers as they find qualified, and who have already satisfied the local Boards of their ability to teach, and been recommended by them to this central board." Another resolution was adopted nominating the Rev. Dr. Ryerson, Rev. Dr. Wickson, Rev. Dr. Jennings, Very Rev. H. J. Grasset, and J. G. Hodgins, Esq., with Dr. Sangster, treasurer, and Dr. Carlyle and Mr. McAllister, secretaries, as a central committee with power to form sub-committees with the view of securing some public recognition of the valuable labours of the late T. J. Robertson, Esq. On the subject of text-books the necessity of a uniform series was affirmed, but in view of the expected publication of new books, no further action was desired. The usual election of officers was held and various votes of thanks having been passed, the convention adjourned.

NOVA SCOTIA.

— An amendment Act on Education in this Province was passed at the recent session of the Legislature. It provides for the union of School Sections; also empowers the Council of Public Instruction "to appoint four qualified persons to constitute a Provincial Board of Examiners, to examine and report upon the written exercises of all candidates for license to teach in the Public Schools of this Province. The Council shall also have power to prescribe the mode in which examinations shall be conducted, to designate the times and places at which candidates shall present themselves for examination, and to make such further arrangements as may be necessary, in order to ensure the uniform classification and licensing of teachers." The act provides for the payment of examiners so appointed. It is further provided that all male persons resident in the City of Halifax not otherwise assessed to the amount of one dollar for the support of Public Schools, shall be assessed for that purpose in the sum of one dollar; but the City Council may exempt in cases of inability, and the payment is to qualify the person to vote at Municipal Elections. The act further provides that "The Board of Commissioners for the city shall be entitled to receive a sum, in no case to exceed a thousand dollars annually as remuneration for their services; such remuneration to be apportioned according to the promptness and regularity of the attendance of the members of the Board, and the amount of labour performed by each, as the Board may decide.

ENGLAND.

EDUCATION OF THE PEOPLE.—Attention is being thoroughly roused in England to the necessity of more systematic provision for the education of the masses. The report of the Rev. Mr. Fraser, who visited the United States and Canada on behalf of the Schools Inquiry Commission, has been presented to Parliament; and Mr. Bruce, the ex Vice-President of Privy Council on Education, has brought in a Bill for the Education of the Poor, whose leading features are thus described in *The Educational Times* for June:—

"It is, it should be stated, entirely permissive, and will not therefore even if adopted without modification by Parliament, necessarily supersede any of the existing provisions of the Revised Code. Its professed object, indeed, is to supplement some of the defects of that famous and much debated piece of legislation, and notably its partial and unequal operation in the case of schools in poor localities.

"The bill may be adopted by a vote of a majority of the burgesses in boroughs, or the rate-payers in a union; but any parish may petition the Privy Council to be excluded from the operation of the Act for cause shown. If the Act is adopted, a "School Committee" must be elected by the town council or the rate-payers, the members of which must be town councillors, or rated at 20 $\frac{1}{2}$., one-third to go out of office every year, but to be re-eligible. All local regulations are to be made by this Committee in respect to the Schools which connect themselves with them under this Act, and they are to appoint local inspectors, but beyond this they are not to interfere with the constitution, management, arrangements, discipline or instruction of the schools. The local regulations may be removed by *certiorari* into one of the superior courts of Westminster. The managers of existing schools may make application for their schools to be received into union with the School Committee, and in case of refusal may appeal to the Queen in Council. A school received into union is called in the Act a "united school;" must be open to the inspectors; and the discipline and instruction must be conformable to the rules prescribed in the Government code; and the qualifications of the teachers must be such as are prescribed by the Code, "or as may in any particular case be allowed by the School Committee." No child is to be required to learn any religious doctrine or formulary objected to in writing by the parent of such child, nor to attend or abstain from attending any particular Sunday School or place of religious worship; and no child is to be refused admission into the school on account of any such objection of the parent. Non compliance with these conditions will involve the exclusion of the school from the union, but any such exclusion will be subject to appeal to the Queen in Council. It will be the duty of the School Committee to inquire from time to time into the amount of school accommodation in the district for the poorer classes; and if they find it not sufficient, they may provide new schools under their own control or management, to be called "district schools," or delegate the same to a body of managers. The united and district schools are to be inspected at least every half year by the local inspector. Grants are to be made to them on such scale as may have been arranged with the managers; but a child is not to be deemed to have attended school for the half-year who has not had at least 15 weeks' attendance, and to make a week's attendance there must be eight separate attendances of two hours on four week days, or four attendances for half-times under the Act of Parliament. These grants are not to exceed the following rates. In Free Schools, 4d. for every child under six years of age; above that age, 6d. for a boy, and 5d. for a girl, and 4d. for a child at work, and 9d. if some trade, business or manual occupation is taught in the school. The funds for these purposes—and this is the important feature of the Act—are to be supplied from the local rates. The expense of providing a school-house is to be charged to the parish in which it is situated, but the School Committee may spread the payment over five years."

Mr. Bruce moved the second reading of the Bill in the House of Commons on 10th July, when the debate occupied the entire sitting; the speeches, which are full of interest, exhibit a marked advance of English opinion on the subject. We quote the following from the report of Mr. Bruce's speech:—The right honorable gentleman then proceeded to cite the case of Upper Canada, a country more exclusively British than any other, to show how very satisfactorily the system of a voluntary educational rate worked, quoting, for that purpose, very largely from the report of Dr. Ryerson [1863], and other official documents:—"There," he said, "out of a population of a million and a half, there were 339,000 children, between five and sixteen years of age, enrolled on the school books; and it was reported, as a 'painful and humiliating fact,' that 44,975 children were not attending any school. True, the average attendance in Canada was 38 per cent., while in England it was 76 per cent.; but in England the great majority of the children were below twelve years of age, whereas, in Canada, they were between five and sixteen: and, moreover, in a country so sparsely peopled as Canada, and where the demand for labour is so great, it was surprising that the school attendance was so high as it was. Dr. Ryerson, in his report for 1863, said that the school, like the municipal system, had become a part and parcel of the local self-government rights of the people of Upper Canada, and that he must be a bold man who would attempt the invasion of them."—The bill was withdrawn, but there is little doubt that in another session the principle of local rating will be adopted, to be followed by local control by the rate payers, while an efficient system of inspection under the central authority, which is a most valuable feature in the present English sys-