

EDUCATION.—NOVA SCOTIA.

A Conspectus of the Public Free School System and Educational Institutions of the Province of Nova Scotia.

The Public Free School system of Nova Scotia provides for the free education of every inhabitant of the province, from the age of five years and upwards, in a prescribed course of study extending from the Kindergarten or Primary grade of the common schools to the University or the end of the High School course. Out of a total population of 450,000 of all ages, 102,586 pupils were enrolled during the last year.

The common school course consists of eight grades representing a year's work each for the average pupil who may complete the course in his fourteenth year. The high school course consists of four grades additional, enabling the more clever pupils, who have lost no time, to graduate in their eighteenth or nineteenth year. The highest grade is practically a post-graduate course and will generally require two years. The prescribed course is here presented, as published in the Teacher's Register. (The numbers of the paragraphs under "General Directions" refer to certain columns in the statistical page of the Register.)

In country sections, where several or all of these grades have to be taught in a small school by one teacher, the order of studies is still indicated by this course; but the time for class work in each subject must be correspondingly contracted as compared with a fully graded school. In many subjects also the work of several grades may be taken up in class simultaneously, under these circumstances, such for instance as callisthenics, music, hygiene and temperance, moral and patriotic duties, lessons on nature, etc., etc. Courses of study and time tables based on this course but contracted to suit variously graded schools, are also prepared for the guidance of teachers.