

### Lord Meath Empire Day Challenge Cups and League of the Empire Prizes.

#### ESSAY COMPETITION FOR EMPIRE DAY, 1912.

The following are the subjects and conditions for the Essay Competitions inter-all-Secondary Schools and inter-all-Primary Schools of the Empire for 1912.

#### A. SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

*Subject*:—"Colonies in ancient and modern times, their development and their relations to the Mother State."

*Prizes*:—A Silver Challenge Cup, value £10. 10s., presented by the Right Hon. the Earl of Meath, K. P., to be held by the School, and a prize of £5. 5s., given by the League of the Empire, is offered for competition to pupils attending all Secondary Schools throughout the Empire. The Essay *must not exceed 2,000 words*. Age limit, over 14 or under 20 on January 1st, 1912.

#### B. PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

*Subject*:—"Describe the objects you would see in a town or country walk in your own neighbourhood."

*Prizes*:—A Silver Challenge Cup, value £10. 10s., presented by the Right Hon. the Earl of Meath, K. P., to be held by the School, and a prize of £3. 3s., given by the League of the Empire, is offered for competition to pupils attending all Elementary Schools throughout the Empire. The Essay *must not exceed 1,000 words*. Age limit, under 14 years of age on January 1st, 1912.

#### CONDITIONS.

1. All essays must be certified by the teacher, parent or guardian of a child in the following terms:—

"I certify that this essay is the unaided composition of the boy or girl in whose name it is sent in."

Signed.....

*Teacher, parent or guardian.*

*Note*.—This declaration is not intended to preclude a teacher from answering any reasonable requests for information, or from indicating books where such information may be found; but an essay must not be a mere reproduction of a lesson given in class.

It is not expected that the essay will be written without reference to the ordinary and authoritative sources of information on the subject; but it is expected that the information will be thoroughly assimilated and rendered in the writer's own language in the essay offered for competition.

2. All essays must first be judged in the Schools,

only the best one from each school being sent in for consideration.

3. All essays must reach the Central Offices of the League of the Empire, Caxton Hall, Westminster, London, England, by the 1st March, 1912.

4. Any essay exceeding the word limit or written by a child over the specified age will be disqualified.

5. Essays should be written on one side of the paper only, and the competitor's full name and address, date of birth, and school should be clearly given.

6. Essays must be submitted in the Candidate's own handwriting (not typewritten). Illustrations are not allowed.

The names of the winning Schools will each year be engraved upon the Cups, which are replicas of the Warwick Vase.

### The Science Examiner Discusses the Examination.

Dr. Waddell, Provincial Examiner in Science, reported in an interesting manner on the examinations of 1911. He notices the proposed series of lessons in botany which Prof. Loran A. DeWolfe of the Provincial Normal College, is publishing in the EDUCATIONAL REVIEW (which should be regularly seen by every one of our teachers), and intimates that some of the questions to be given next year, are likely to be suggested by such a course. He maintains it should be so. The proposed series of lessons should touch some of the most important fundamental principles of a useful botany, and so should an examination paper. The following extracts from Dr. Waddell's report will be of interest to teachers as well as candidates:

"As you know, I have tried for years to improve the teaching of Science in the schools of Nova Scotia, and have had that end in view while framing examination papers, as well as in articles that I have written. I think that in Nova Scotia more freedom is given to the individual teacher than is allowed in most places. This permits the teacher to follow his own bent to a certain extent and the examinations are set with a view to encouraging good work.

"So important is it that students should have right ideas from the start that I believe you would do good service by distinctly announcing that next year one or two questions will be asked in which at least one of the following will be involved—velocity, acceleration, force, work, power. The real meaning of gram, pound, dyne, poundal, foot pound, foot poundal, gram, centimeter, dyne centimeter, and erg should be carefully drilled into the pupils by their teachers. I do not think you would be giving too much information regarding the examination because any candidates who study these points well deserve such recognition by the examiner. Teachers should put far more stress upon the fundamental ideas than upon the formulae based upon them. When the fundamental ideas are understood, it will take very little time to learn and apply the formulae correctly."—*N. S. Journal of Education*.