

The Metric System.

On the 27th of May, 1897, the president of the British National Board of Trade introduced in the British House of Commons a bill for the compulsory adoption of the metric system. His effort was supported by all the Chambers of Commerce of Great Britain and Ireland, who sent forty-nine delegates in one body, and it bids fair to succeed. Russia has publicly stated that on the day the metric system is adopted by Britain it will be compulsory in Russia. Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, Roumania, Servia, Belgium, France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Mexico, Argentine Republic, Peru, Venezuela, and all Central and South America, all have the metric system obligatory at the present time.

Now the United States must not lag behind the world in this matter. Every American suffers from the present lack of uniformity between our weights and measures and the *now almost* universal metric. The merits of the metre (about a yard) and decimals thereof, the litre (about a quart) and decimals thereof, the gram (15 grains) and decimals thereof, are so quickly recognized and so readily comprehended that there is no reason why our country should not have the benefit of this *labor saving* and *now almost* universal system.

A bill to this effect was passed by the House of Representatives of the last U. S. Congress, but was reconsidered, and will probably come up again during the present session. It must come if America is to keep up her large rate of increase of foreign trade.—*Hub Gore, Boston.*

A contract has been entered into with the management of the Shore Line Railroad to convey the St. John County Institute, and as many from Charlotte as wish to join, by special train, leaving St. John (west) on Thursday at 7 a. m., and arriving in St. Stephen before 11 a. m., local. Teachers can return either on Saturday morning, Sept. 25th, or by regular train on that afternoon. The fare has been fixed at \$1.00 for the round trip from all points. It was hoped to be able to obtain half that rate for Charlotte County teachers, but seemingly insurmountable difficulties presented themselves. Arrangements will be made to meet the train on its arrival in St. Stephen with street cars and carriages, if needed. The usual travelling arrangements will be made with other lines of travel converging to Calais and St. Stephen, including the Shore Line, which will give the usual arrangement to Charlotte County teachers outside the above special arrangement, which they can also avail themselves of. Everything points to a very large attendance, and, other conditions being favorable, a very successful institute will be held.

QUESTION DEPARTMENT

LARVA OF *Papilio Asterias*.

A correspondent from Cumberland or Westmorland sends a specimen of the stout, minutely knobbed grub or caterpillar of the Asterian Swallow-tailed Butterfly, which was found feeding on the foliage of the parsnip. Were I not so busy, I would be able to give here a cut of the butterfly itself. It bears some resemblance to its nearest relative, *Papilio Turnus* (the common Swallow-tailed Butterfly), figured in the EDUCATIONAL REVIEW in Volume I., page 111. It is very much darker, however, but is distinguished by the long tail to each wing. It flies at the end of May, and through June, July and August. Its food plants are celery, carrot, parsley, and some other umbelliferous plants.

IMAGO OF *Cicindela sex-guttata*.

This beautiful, metallic green Tiger Beetle comes from Bear River, Annapolis County. It was found on the dry, dusty road, where it is by no means easy to catch. On each of its two shining green wing-covers are found four white spots, forming the outline of a four-sided figure at the end of the wing-cover. As a general rule, the upper and forward spot is wanting; then each wing-cover has but three spots; whence the Latin name above, which may be translated, "The six-spotted Tiger Beetle." It is not injurious to human interests, its tiger propensities being exercised against other insects.

The crustacean from the water of a drain in Sydney, Cape Breton, nearly allied to the shrimps, is unknown. These animals have not yet been studied in Nova Scotia.

JOHN CABOT.

Don't pronounce this word as if it were French. The name is of Italian origin, and has been spelled Caboto, or Cabotto. The final *t* is therefore sounded, and the *o* should be pronounced long, most probably.

TEACHER.—(1) Two farmers, A and B, have 30 cows between them. They sell at different prices, but each receives the same sum. If A had sold his at B's price he would have received £320; if B had sold his at A's price he would have received £245. How many had each?

If A had x cows B would have 30 cows $- x$ cows. If A sold his cows for £ y each he would receive £ xy . Then B would receive the same; but as he had 30 $- x$ cows he must have received £ $\frac{xy}{30-x}$ for each of them.