

"As I say I have already tried this plan with Australian schools, and the children have taken to it eagerly. The compositions are in the form of letters, dealing with local subjects, and I believe that a N. Z. child receiving a letter from a fellow little Imperialist in Canada would feel a glow of pride, and would be impressed with the reality of the Empire, and would feel that it was something that existed not simply in a geography book.

"I am Sir,

Yours faithfully,

A. WEBBER,

Head Master

Newton West School,
Auckland, N. Z."

There are many other themes for Nova Scotian compositions than Halifax Harbor and a Canadian Winter; and there are no doubt many pupils in the schools throughout the Province who will delight in exchanging local descriptions for those of the distant and beautiful New Zealand, five times larger than our own Province, in the centre of the ocean and on the opposite side of the world, yet a part of our own great country.

THE METRIC SYSTEM IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Consul-General H. Clay Evans sends to the Department of State from London, August 20th, 1902, a letter from the secretary of the Decimal Association, showing the progress of efforts to have the metric system of weights and measures adopted in England. The letter says:—

It has come to my knowledge that there is a considerable feeling in favor of the adoption of the metric weights and measures of the United States of America, and with this in mind, I am sure you will be interested in information regarding the prospect of this country adopting metric weights and measures also.

I therefore venture to lay before you the following information: There are 290 members of the present House of Commons so thoroughly in accord with our aims that they have given me authority to publish their names as supporters. If we add to this the number of members of Parliament who would be influenced by a debate in the House of Commons to vote in our favor, we are convinced that we are now strong enough to carry a bill.

During the last four or five weeks, no less than sixty city, town, and county councils have passed resolutions to the effect that it is desirable that the reform should be made in the interest of commerce and education.

One of the most definite results, in fact, I think I may say, the most definite result, of the conference of the colonial premiers was the passing of a resolution in favor of the adoption of the metric weights and measures throughout the British Empire. This will have a most important result, and will render certain the early passing of a bill to give effect to those views.

All the chambers of commerce in this country, nearly all the school boards, the trades unions, and a great number of societies of various kinds, have for a long time been active supporters of my association.

The attitude of our premier may be gathered from some remarks he made to the deputation which waited upon him in regard to this question in 1895. He said:

"If I may express my own opinion upon the merits of the case, there can be no doubt whatever that the judgment of the whole civilized world, not excluding the countries which still adhere to the antiquated systems under which we suffer, has long decided that the metric system is the only rational system."