

the opposite side of the harbour to the coal fields, and that it was not thought worth while to build a bridge across the river so that the Railway might be run into Pictou, instead of the traffic being carried on by means of Ferries. This fact accounts for the very backward state of Pictou as a commercial town. However it is now certain that in a few months Pictou will have a road of its own, running right into the town, and thus do away with the troublesome and expensive system of carrying on trade by means of ferries.

The harbour of Pictou is safe and commodious and would be almost invaluable, but for the fact that the sand bar at the mouth prevents the entrance of any very large vessels or steamers.

This town was formerly a great shipbuilding centre, but owing to all the timber within easy access being destroyed, this has altogether fallen away, so that now nothing remains to show that Pictou occupied such a prominent position as a shipbuilding town, as it once did.

For the past few years the state of trade in Pictou has been very dull; but latterly a change seems to be taking place, and the town appears to be regaining its wonted appearance, so that when the railroad is built we may expect to find Pictou once more occupy the position of one of the most important commercial towns in the Province.

Pictou was never a great manufacturing town and there are at present very few manufactories in town; but the bread works of the enterprising firm of G. J. Hamilton

and Sons' deserve special mention as they are said to be the best of their kind in the lower provinces. Pictou however has many fine buildings, such as the Custom House, Y.M.C.A. building, Pictou Bank, and the Academy which, by the way, occupies the most commanding site in the town.

Concerning the people of the town little needs to be said. They are for the most part industrious, intelligent, and "hospitality personified;" in fact the people of Pictou county are noted for their kindness and courtesy to strangers. As I said before the people are for the most part of Scottish descent, perhaps this fact may account for their hospitality. But of this I will let the readers judge for themselves so *vale. vale.*

ALPHA.

EXAMINATION HUMORS.

AS a general rule examinations are not regarded by the outside world as occasions on which a display of humour may be expected. But if exceptions prove the rule, then may examinations claim to afford a very rich fund of ludicrous incidents. In an "exam" there are naturally various circumstances which call forth the wit of the student. But it is when a candidate is being tested as to his 'general knowledge' that the most ludicrous mistakes are made. Again one of the most frequent causes of humour at an examination, is the ignorance of the candidate. The following is an example of this: A student was once