

the staffs of these institutions, and included Agriculture, Horticulture, Biology, Botany and other branches of Nature study, Physics and Physical Drill. Teachers and students alike were enthusiastic, and the results were gratifying. Dr. McKay, Superintendent of Education, visited and addressed the classes, and a very interesting lecture on Museum Work was given by Mr. Harlan Smith, Archaeologist on the Geological Survey.

Of those students receiving diplomas at the end of the session, Miss Effie Mott, West Branch, N. S., made the highest marks. Following in order, and not far behind, were Miss Pearl Kedy, Mahone Bay, Miss Laliah Mauzer, Bridgewater, and Miss Merna Frank, Pleasant River, N. S.

Next year's course of study is to be somewhat modified. In the past, all subjects have been treated as of equal value. In the future, there will be major and minor courses. The more important subjects will be given in two-year courses, while minor courses may be covered in a single session.

In connection with the stimulus that has lately been given to the study of agriculture by our own government, and the largely attended agricultural classes, both at Truro and Halifax, it is interesting to note that the Commissioner of Education of the United States reports that "it pays to teach agriculture." Much higher salaries are commanded in the United States by special teachers of agriculture than by teachers of other branches. And this is one of the many indications of the growth in importance of this school subject. In 1910 eighteen hundred schools reported that agriculture was taught as a separate study in the High School department, and 1912 shows a very large increase in these figures. Elementary instruction in agriculture is now required in seventeen states of the Union.

EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCES.

The League of the Empire, which for twelve years has been working in the interests of Imperial Education, convened the first Annual Meeting of Teachers' Associations throughout the Empire in 1913. This meeting was held in London in July, and attended by many Canadian teachers and educational authorities. The Imperial Union of Teachers was founded in the presence of about 300 delegates from Teachers' Associations in all parts of the Empire. The government of Ontario have invited the League to hold the next quadrennial

Imperial Conference of Teachers' Associations in Toronto.

At the meeting of the Dominion Educational Association, held in Ottawa in August, some of the important topics discussed were:—reciprocity between provinces in the matter of teachers, free text books, and uniform text books all over Canada; the introduction of Montessori methods; and the establishment of a central bureau of education. An outline of the report of the Royal Commission on Technical Education was presented by Dr. J. W. Robertson, Chairman of the Commission.

Agricultural Education is receiving a great deal of attention. At Guelph, Ontario, early in August, there was held a Rural Education Conference, at which lectures and addresses were given on different phases of agricultural problems and of rural education. Accounts were given of the work done in agricultural education in Germany, Scandinavia and the United States. The Consolidation of Rural Schools, the improvement of school grounds, and the development of the school as a social centre, were some of the subjects discussed at length.

At the Educational Conference at Fredericton, between the Chief Superintendent and the School Inspectors of New Brunswick, Agricultural Education in the country schools divided the interest with the subject of technical and industrial training in the city. Inspector Steeves reported that there are at present twenty-one school gardens in the province.

At the International Congress on School Hygiene, held in Buffalo, August 25-30, there were special discussions on the following subjects:—School Feeding, Oral Hygiene, Sex Hygiene, Conservation of Vision in School Children, Health Supervision of University Students, School Illumination, Relation between Physical Education and School Hygiene, Tuberculosis Among School Children, Physical Education and College Hygiene, The Binet-Simon Test, the Mentally Defective Child.

The Canadian Public Health Association is to hold its third annual congress at Regina, September 18-20. All meetings will be open to the public. Of special interest are the sectional meetings to consider medical inspection of schools. School grounds, supervised playgrounds, the ventilation, heating and lighting of schools will all be considered. The chairman of the section on Social Workers is Professor W. W. Andrews, formerly of Mount Allison.