

judges and lawyers of Halifax, for gratuitously offering their services. Mr. Munro has endowed a chair of International and Constitutional Law, which has been accepted by R. C. Weldon, A. M., Ph. D., the able Mt. Allison professor. Among the remaining members of the Faculty, we are pleased to notice the name of Wallace Graham, A. M., Q. C., whose subject is Mercantile Law. Mr. Graham graduated at Acadia in 1867, was admitted to the bar in 1871, and has since worked himself up to a very prominent position in the Halifax bar.

Full particulars in reference to the school have not yet been given, but it has been decided, we believe, that the course shall extend over three years, and that degrees will be granted by the governing board of Dalhousie.

It is very generally known, no doubt, that our college work, as regards the three lower classes, closes this year the first of May. The change was announced last June, and was chiefly made, we believe, in order to accomodate one of our then professors, who had an appointment to fulfil during the month of May. Another reason has also been given. The Common School term commences at that time, and it would certainly be much more convenient for those who desire to teach, or are compelled by straitened circumstances to do so, to have their work completed before leaving. We have been led, however, to consider the change a retrograde movement. The number of teachers among us is comparatively small, and under the old arrangement there was nothing to prevent them from taking their schools. They could either return for examinations, or pass them the following year.

Viewing the matter in the light of the general well-being of the College, no one, we think, will receive the new plan with favor. Complaints about cramming a large amount of work into a few short months are to common to remain unheeded, and we accordingly find that the tendency now-a-days is to lengthen rather than shorten the collegiate year.

There is a peculiar disadvantage in the new departure. The graduating class will probably be the only students here at the Anniversary Exercises. The few others who may return will only stand in the relation of visitors as far as the exercises are concerned. The absence of the students at this the most interesting, and most pleasant period of the year, will doubtless appear to detract from

the interest of the closing exercises. Acadia is noted for her commencement season, and any move, which will at all tend to deaden the interest, should be received with disfavor. We feel assured that we are speaking not only from the standpoint of students, but also of the friends of the college generally.

Since the above was written, it has been reported that hereafter the year will be made its full length. We trust the report is well founded.

MANY friends of education of both political parties have demurred to the policy of the Canadian Government in respect to duties on books. They claim, that, even granting the general principles of Protection to be sound, books in their very nature and by reason of the present condition of this country, are exceptional commodities, and therefore should be kept, if possible, on the free list. In a colony like Canada, where educational progress and the diffusion of intelligence—necessary antecedents of a country great in literature, art, wealth and morals are limited by scarcity of means, they regard the taxation of books, which still further narrows the purchasing limit, as the very opposite of wise and just legislation.

In no instance, perhaps, has the burden pressed more heavily than in the case of colleges. For the most part, the efforts to provide for and facilitate the advantages of collegiate education, on the part of patrons, and the efforts to utilize these privileges, on the part of students, are hard persevering struggles. With no tax on books the former could not enrich the libraries as they would wish, or as the need requires; and the latter would have to do without many books which they eagerly desire, and for want of which they actually suffer. With the tax the limit of possibility, in both cases, is reduced by 15 or 20 per cent. Hence, it is not surprising that the exactions of Government should be considered onerous and unjust, and that legitimate means should be taken to have the grievance removed.

Last month there was an attempt made in that direction. Delegates from various colleges in the Dominion waited upon the Finance Minister with a memorial, setting forth the objections to the present duties, and comparing the policy of Canada with other countries.

The arguments urged were:—

1. A tax on books is a tax on knowledge, and violates all principles of national taxation, and is opposed by