

EDUCATION.

keep schools open in cases where the ratepayers fail in respect of these duties. The province is also divided by the Council of Education into twelve inspectorial divisions, with a school inspector for each division. The school inspector is a member of each district Board of Commissioners and is its secretary *ex officio*.

Elementary Schools.—The province is further divided into school sections, each of which is a self-governing educational corporation, comprising the territory of a city, town, or rural area approximating four miles in diameter, and electing three trustees for the local management of the schools. At the annual meeting of the school section, held on the last Monday in June,—except in fishing settlements, where the Council of Public Instruction on petition of the school board fixes the first Monday in March before the fishermen go to sea,—the board of three school trustees presents its report for the past year and its estimates for the next year to the ratepayers for their decision. The senior trustee retires, and his successor is elected for three years. The board has full control of all school affairs, subject to the conditions fixed by law and to the oversight of the inspector. In towns, the school board consists of three members of the town council and two members appointed by the Government. In Halifax six commissioners are appointed by the City Council and six are appointed by the Provincial Government. The school year technically begins on August 1, in the middle of the summer vacation. The teaching term opens at the end of August and closes at the end of June. There are two weeks of vacation at Christmas. The operation in each section of legal provisions as to compulsory attendance is dependent upon their adoption by a vote of the ratepayers. Subject to certain exemptions compulsory attendance is general for children from 6 to 16 in the cities and towns and from 7 to 12 in the country.

Sources of Income.—The School revenue is derived from (1) the local or sectional assessment voted at the annual meeting; (2) the municipal school fund, amounting to 35 cents per capita of each rural municipality (of which there are 24), but levied on the real and personal property; and (3) the provincial aid to teachers. The municipal school fund is distributed to school boards as follows: \$25 for each teacher employed, and the balance, about an equal aggregate, according to the attendance of pupils. The law allows municipalities to raise a larger fund; three counties have now a fund based on 50 cents per capita, and receive \$50 for each teacher employed. The provincial aid is paid to the teacher in proportion to the class of license held. Class D (third class) receive \$60 per annum; Class C (second class) \$90; Class B (first class) \$120; Class A (superior first class) \$150; and Class "Academic," whose scholarship must henceforward be of university graduate grade, \$180 or \$210, according to position.

School Grades.—The public school programme is outlined in twelve grades, representing the average annual work of a pupil. The first eight are known as the common school grades, and the last four, Grades IX, X, XI, and XII, are known as high school grades—all free to pupils within the school section. One high school in each county can obtain an extra grant of money as a county academy for free admission to its classes of all students from the county who may be qualified. The four