agricultural colleges, collegiate institutes, and boarding-schools of the type of Upper Canada, St. Andrew's, Ridley, Trinity College, Lennoxville, and the Royal Military College. It is not the pupils of one class of schools are better than another, but simply that they are different

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HAVE you studied the "vocational" school? On the continent it has come into great popularity in the larger cities, mainly because city schools must necessarily be different from country and village schools. Canada has not been forced to recognise that difference yet, but when it does vocational schools will be much better known. Perhaps the first vocational school will be the agricultural high school. There should be advanced schools, not agricultural colleges, where farmers' boys could get a training which would send them back to the farm instead of into the town retail shop or the city warehouse. The agricultural high school will have a piece of land attached and scientific farming will be done under competent supervision. The idea that a high school should be a building containing a certain number of seats and blackboards is out of date. In vocational schools, pupils do their life-work in miniature.

In the cities, vocational schools combine manual training, domestic science and technical education and make books the handmaiden of the eye, the ear and the hand. In the ordinary schools, books are the main thing; in vocational schools, books are only supplementary to teaching. In ordinary schools the pupil takes his information second-hand from books; in vocational schools, he gets most of his information by experiment. In vocational schools the boy with the dull brain and the poor memory has a chance to do something to distinguish himself, and the slothful boy becomes ambitious.

Vocational schools will not abolish all the weaknesses in our educational system, but they will do something towards giving children initiative and a self-reliant spirit. Further, they will teach that labour of the hands is neither degrading nor detrimental.

A SMALL CONTROVERSY

A RECENT issue contained an article on the Coronation Oath and advocated its being changed from negative to positive form. It was practically the only attitude a journal with a broad national outlook could take. This country contains both Catholics and Protestants and the statesman or journalist who does not preach and practise toleration is not living up to his duties as a citizen. The success of Sir John Macdonald and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, outstanding figures in our public life, have been due mainly to their broad national spirit. They recognised with tolerance and even generosity all races and creeds. To them, citizenship is the only

claim for consideration. In the course of that article, it was pointed out that tolerance must be shown by both Catholics and Protestants, and among other sentences was the following:

"There is still the intolerant Orange Sentinel on the one side and the equally intolerant Catholic Register on the other."

No one seems to have felt it necessary to come to the defence of the Orange Sentinel but several subscribers have spoken a word for the Catholic Register. There seems to be some doubt in the minds of a few people that the latter journal deserved the epithet. Hence it is necessary for us to justify it. This can be most easily accomplished by quoting a sample paragraph from the comments made by that journal on the article in the Courier to which reference has already been made. The Register says:

"If we will only lower our theological barriers and consent to take part in Protestant services, and allow our girls and young men to marry whomsoever they will, and where they will, and our youth to be corrupted in their schools, if we will divest ourselves of our bigotry and give the glad hand to peoples of every faith and creed, the Courier will consent to the 'anti-Romanist' declaration being repealed. And for this signal evidence of the Courier's graciousness, liberality, and broad-mindedness, we are supposed to be duly thankful—aye, glad that the little pink and white national 'weakly' permits us to live on!"

There is one phrase here which should prove the charge: "Our youth to be corrupted in their schools." Such a phrase could not appear in a paper edited by a Protestant, saving only the other intolerant journal which has been coupled with the Register. "Corrupted" is a strong word, and to accuse Protestant teachers of corrupting children, or Protestant children of corrupting Roman Catholic children is surely the work of an intolerant writer.

In Toronto, there is a junior school, not under control of the Public School Board, known as the Model School. It is a part of the Normal School system and managed by the Ontario Government. In it several of the teachers are Roman Catholics, but practically all

the children come from the best Protestant homes of the city. It is supposed to be the finest school for junior pupils which Ontario possesses. Though none of the pupils are Catholic, no one ever heard of a protest against the Catholic teachers, who seem to be as capable and as proficient as the Protestant teachers.

Contrast the attitude of the Catholic Register with the attitude of the Protestant parents of Toronto. The Register preaches that a Catholic child would be "corrupted" if allowed to study under a Protestant teacher; the Protestant parents allow their children to be taught by Catholic teachers.

It must be admitted, however, that most Catholics are trying to live in harmony with their Protestant neighbours, and this action is reciprocated by the latter. The intolerant sections on both sides are steadily diminishing.

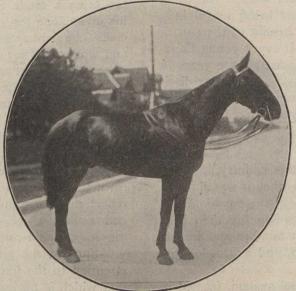


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