

## OVERCROWDED PROFESSIONS.

Even the Church is finding that it has a plethora of pastors. At the Methodist Conference held in Toronto, Mr. J. J. Maclaren, Q.C., gave notice of motion expressing the opinion that the needs of the home work would not likely require, in the near future, the reception of so many candidates for the ministry in that department, and that the Special Committee of the Conference be appointed to consider the question and report, etc.

In the issue of June 13th of Canada's splendid weekly, the *Saturday Night*, of Toronto, the editor, Mr. Sheppard, forcibly shows that we are over-educating our youth, and adds, "We have, at public expense, been making preachers, doctors, lawyers, teachers *for the United States*, of thousands of our best young men. We thoroughly understand that they cannot have a career in Canada under present circumstances. Yet we proceed to educate them at great expense, *in order that they may go abroad.*"

Privately expressed, it is the opinion of the leading teachers of the professions that they are overcrowded, while there is no gain-saying the statement that the splendid higher education of our Canadian universities—than which there is no superior on the continent—has tempted many a young man whom nature meant for a farmer, and who would be all the better farmer if his education had been more directly in the line of his life work. Teachers and professors themselves will admit that the professions are congested; that over-competition has disastrous results; that many of these young men are forced to go out of the Dominion to make a decent living. We cannot conceal these facts from ourselves, and yet, while admitting them, we do our best to increase them! We observe the meanest and most immoral methods used to attract "business," even by members of our body who are not quacks, some of whom, in fact, would infinitely prefer to act ethically, if they could see the way to live in the meantime. To do justice to several who have resorted to quack methods, we must recognize the truth that no man should starve, or make his family suffer out of respect to an ethical code. While we will never yield to the belief that these methods are necessary; and, in fact, while we are convinced that in the long run they do not pay, commercially speaking, it is not surprising that some practitioners think such a belief a fallacy, and in sight of excessive competition, do those unethical things which they should not do. We can keep quacks from getting a license, but it is doubtful if we can keep licentiates from becoming quacks, or using quack methods. When the Queen City of Canada can produce mean commercial