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The College and a Business Career.

Some remarks lately made by Mr. Charles M. Schwab, president of the great United States Steel incorporation, to a body of students in attendance upon a New York Evening Trades' School, appear to indicate plainly that in Mr. Schwab's opinion a young man who has a business career in view, is unwise to take a College course as a part of his preparation for his life work. Mr. Schwab is reported as saying that, of the truly great men whom he knew in industrial and manufacturing lines, none were College bred men, but men who received an industrial or mechanical education, and who worked up by perseverance and application. He advised students to make an early start. The boy with the manual training and the common school education who could start in life at sixteen or seventeen could leave the boy who goes to College till he is twenty or more so far behind in the race that he could never catch up. It would seem, however, that in reference to the College man's chances of catching up, a good deal must depend upon the objective point. What is the goal? If it is simply a matter of developing capacity for business and of making money, it is very likely true that the man who has spent the four years necessary for taking the College course in acquiring a thorough elementary knowledge of the business to which he is to devote himself will maintain the important advantage which he has secured over the man who has gone to College. But one may well ask ought it to be the main object of any man's life to develop to the utmost the capacity for business, so as to be able to conduct productive industries on the grandest scale, and to accumulate wealth. May it not be well worth while for a man to sacrifice some measure of power in that direction in order to be something more than a director of business and a maker of money? What a man becomes can never be less important than what he produces. The man's own personality should be for him at least the great consideration, and whether we regard the matter in reference to the man's capacity for enjoyment, or in reference to that immeasurably higher standard of capacity for service to his fellowmen, can we doubt that he will be a larger man for having secured, as preliminary to his business career, the discipline and culture of mind; the intellectual poise, the habit of judicial investigation and the appreciation of the higher ideals of life, which the higher education may be expected to give? In regard to capacity for business, it must be recognized that after all it is largely a matter of natural endowment. The eminent business men, like the eminent poets, are born rather than made. If a man is endowed by nature with great ability for money making, the discipline of a College course will not rob him of that talent, and if he is born without business capacity he will never attain to any eminent success, though he be trained to business from the cradle. But, taking two men both eminently and equally endowed by nature with business faculty, let one go at sixteen directly to business, while the other takes four years at College before entering upon his business career, and we are much inclined to think that, other things being equal, when they have reached the age, say of forty-five, the College bred man will see much less reason to regret the disposition made of the years between 16 and 20 than will the other.

Good Roads in Ontario.

At the last session of the Ontario Legislature a bill was passed appropriating a million dollars of Provincial funds to aid the improvement of the public roads of the Province. This provision is however contingent upon the action of the municipal councils and the expenditure of the municipalities for the same purpose. The act provides that

before the first of January, 1903, the highways to be improved under a system of country roads may be designated by bye-law of the County Council with the approval of Township Councils. If advantage is taken of the provisions of the Act the result will be the expenditure of three million dollars (of which one-third will be from the Provincial treasury) in repairing the highways of Ontario. Calculating the cost of construction at one thousand dollars per mile this will give the Province 300 miles of first class highway, or about 65 miles to each county. There is scarcely any other expenditure of money which would yield more substantial returns.

The Joint High Commission.

It is stated that after the rising of the Dominion Parliament steps will probably be taken looking to an early meeting of the Joint High Commission for the settlement of questions now at issue between the United States and this country. Nothing definite has been given to the public in regard to these preliminary steps, but it is hinted that an informal meeting may take place between a representative of the United States and a member of the Dominion Government with the purpose of talking over the matter and ascertaining whether or not circumstances are favorable for the re-opening of negotiations.

Imperial Defence.

Respecting the matter of Imperial Defence, and the relation of Canada thereto, The Toronto Globe makes the following sensible observations:

"We think two objects should be kept in view: (1) Canada should pay her way, as she is now big enough and wealthy enough to do so. (2) The arrangements should be such as to give no encouragement to jingoism. Whatever is done should be done with as little 'hurrah' as possible, and on a basis of duty and prudence, not of glory. This, we think, is Principal Grant's idea, and so far we agree with him, though we do not think Canada has neglected her duty to such an extent as he says. (3) The burden, whatever it may be, should be laid as equally as possible on all the people. This is where the idea of occasional contingents is defective. A few enthusiastic young men pay the debt which we all owe; they bear the hardship and the danger, while the rest get off with a small pecuniary burden. The policy of occasional contingents is also defective because it works only in time of war. Now, the greatest advantage of remaining in the empire is peace; the greatest service performed by the British navy is the maintenance of peace. It is quite within the bounds of possibility that an occasion for sending another contingent may not arise for 25 years. But during that 25 years we shall enjoy the protection of the British fleet. This is really the matter on which attention should be concentrated. So far as land defence is concerned, we do our duty when we maintain our own militia, and render it unnecessary for British regulars to be stationed here. If these two things are kept in view—that the matter should be discussed on a peace basis, and mainly in reference to the sea—we think that we shall see our way more clearly."

A New Kind of Blockhouse.

According to a recent despatch from Pretoria, the operations of the Boers in train-wrecking have been greatly discouraged by the erection at many points throughout the country of a peculiarly ingenious and effective type of blockhouse. These blockhouses are designed and made by the 23rd Company of the Royal Engineers under Major Rice. Their walls are composed of two sheets of corrugated iron set six inches apart, and the space between filled in with stones. They are absolutely bullet-proof, the bullets being broken up after passing the outer sheet. All the material for these blockhouses are obtainable in the country, and a few days suffice to build one and set it up. In shape they are rectangular, octagonal or circular, and are built to hold from one to sixteen men. A special kind of

loop-hole has been devised, giving a range of ninety degrees. The entrances are protected by a wall, while a cobweb entanglement of barbed wire runs all round. These blockhouses are said to be in every way superior to sangars and trenches against an enemy unprovided with much artillery, as is now the case with the Boers, and their erection throughout the Vaal River and Orange River Colonies has contributed much toward rendering the policing of the country effective.

The Increased Indemnity.

The leader of the Government at Ottawa and the leader of the Opposition, with most of their respective followers, have been able to find at least one question on which they could see eye to eye and vote a hearty affirmative—the question, to wit, of increasing the sessional allowance from \$1,000 to \$1,500 for each member of the House and of the Senate. Something may of course be said in support of the course taken. It may be said that some other countries—notably the United States and Australia pay their members of Parliament much more than Canada will pay under the new arrangement, and also that in the case of some members \$1,500 is not an adequate compensation for the loss sustained in being away from their homes and their personal affairs for four or five months every year. We think, however, that the people will generally incline to the opinion that the reasons adduced for the appropriation of an extra \$500 yearly by each member of the House and Senate are scarcely sufficient. We doubt if there are many members who are at any serious financial loss by reason of their attendance upon Parliament. Many members find it possible to visit their homes several times in the course of the session, and thus by an occasional visit and correspondence they are able to keep pretty well in touch with their business. Then it is probable that in many cases the advertising a man receives through being prominently before the country is turned to his financial account. At any rate it does not appear that there has been any lack of men who were willing to enter Parliament on the consideration of receiving \$1,000 indemnity. If it is said that the running of elections involves members of Parliament in large expenses, it must be replied that the legitimate expenses are not very great, and if it is a matter of illegitimate expenses—why that is quite another story. At many sessions of our Dominion Parliament a great deal of time has been spent uselessly in making and listening—or more probably in not listening—to almost interminable speeches. We are inclined to think that if the time of the members of the House of Commons were used to the best purpose during the session of Parliament, \$1,000 would be a sufficient indemnity, and as much as the country can afford. As for the Senate, it would have been better to decrease the sessional allowance by \$500 than to increase it. The Upper Chamber would then be less desirable as an asylum for mere place-seekers and more attractive to a class of men willing to serve their country at some personal sacrifice. It should be remembered that in Great Britain members of Parliament receive no pay, and yet probably as large a proportion of men of first class ability is found in the British House of Commons as in the United States Congress whose members receive \$5,000 a year. If the time of Canadian politicians is of so large financial value to themselves as intimated by the member for Colchester who thinks \$1,500 quite too small an indemnity, then we should say that our members of Parliament must be getting rich so fast that they could well afford, from those motives of patriotism which appeal to them all so strongly, to give their parliamentary services without compensation in accordance with the motherland's example.