

The Weekly British Colonist

Wednesday, November 9 1870

Public Education.

The duty of the State to make fitting provision for the education of the young is a proposition which is now receiving general recognition. The Temporal and the Spiritual are no longer twin sisters; they have been readily rent asunder by the abock which has brought the first and proudest nation of Continental Europe to its knees. The age of Church and State is rapidly passing away; and all religious teaching must henceforth commend itself to the consciences of the people, relying upon their voluntary acceptance and will-offerings. It scarcely falls within the scope of our immediate purpose to moralize upon this revolution and to speculate upon all its widespread consequences. There is, however, one of its proximate results which concerns our present subject. With the disappearance of Church and State connection must come the end of what may be denominated Sectarian or denominational education. Education is rapidly becoming a State, a purely secular affair. In England the tendency in this direction is palpably manifest in the Education Bill passed by the Imperial Parliament, during its last session, and which has just become the law of the land. It is true that bill makes provision for the continuance of denominational schools; but who can fail to detect in the restrictions and conscience-claims which it imposes the death-knell of sectarian education? That measure must be regarded as the entrance of the thin end of the wedge which is to separate secular education from denominational control, as the Irish Church Bill is undoubtedly the thin end of the wedge destined to completely sever Church and State. Our present business is not to enter the arena of polemical discussion but merely to state facts. Compulsory State Education has long obtained in Prussia; and who will say that it has not contributed towards placing Prussia in the front rank of European nations. Knowledge is power, whether in the Council, the hamlet or the battlefield. The era of Compulsory State Education is dawning in Great Britain, and it will doubtless soon find its way to the Colonies. The Dominion of Canada has long possessed a very complete system of national education; and the compulsory provision is about to be engrained upon that system. Indeed, it appears to us that the compulsory provision forms a necessary part of a free state system of education. Remove the incentive to regular attendance involved in the payment of direct tuition fees or school taxes, and compulsory attendance would appear to become almost necessary. Turning from general principles to that which more nearly concerns the reader, there need be no hesitation in asserting that the present so-called school system has been found to be ill-suited and wholly inadequate to the circumstances and wants of British Columbia. Never more than a tentative measure, it has probably received as full and fair a trial as the colonists can afford to give it. Amongst the several subjects demanding the attention of the Legislature that of Education may probably be regarded as ranking next to that of Confederation. Everywhere, in town and in district, the want of a liberal and workable school system is felt; nor can the country brook delay. It must, therefore, devolve upon the Legislative Council, at its next session, to make provision for this great and universal want. It is not the object of the present article to define, or even to outline, the system which we think ought to be adopted; but it may be remarked that in a Colony so scattered, and presenting such a diversity of conditions, it may be found necessary in the first instance to adopt a system which, while it must necessarily be more or less crude, will possess sufficient elasticity to meet, as far as may be found practicable, the varying circumstances of the different communities and outlying settlements. It cannot be denied that many features present themselves of a nature to render the working out of any general principles both difficult and comparatively expensive. But, in dealing with a matter of such cardinal importance as the education of the youth, legislation must not succumb before these. The distant settlement must not be neglected because the number of children are smaller than might, under other circumstances, appear to justify the establishment and maintenance of a public school. No community of children, however small, must be permitted to grow up uneducated simply because the price which it would cost per head to educate them might appear to be somewhat disproportionate to men's pre-conceived notions of such things. Knowledge is power; and if it is hoped to build up

a great empire in British North America, it is essential that knowledge shall constitute a corner stone in the edifice. A false economy, indeed, would it be to leave the youth of any community uneducated on account of the financial expense. Let a liberal education, therefore, be placed within the reach of every child in British Columbia; and let there be very little delay about it.

BURGULARY.—Tommy, a Fort Rupert Indian, young in years but old in crime, was brought before the Police Court yesterday on a charge of burglary and theft. The charge was preferred by night watchman Hart, who deposed that on Friday morning about 3 o'clock he discovered the glass in the store door of Mr L Blum, on Johnson street, broken and suspecting a burglary he gave the customary alarm and officer McMillan came to the spot. Hart went into the store through the broken glass and found the prisoner under the counter, and on his person were found clothing and articles of jewelry and cutlery to the value of about \$50, and on the floor near the door other goods of the value of about \$60 which the thief evidently intended to carry away. Sergeant McMillan took the prisoner into custody, and on the way to the Police Barracks Tommy voluntarily admitted the theft and asked McMillan to intercede for him with the Magistrate. He said he had got off very easy every time he had been arrested before for crime, but he expected it would go hard with him this time. He said, however, that he did not fear to die. Sergeant McMillan corroborated the testimony of Mr Hart, and Mr Ross, salesman for Mr Blum, identified the stolen goods and stated that the door was not broken the night before, but was closed and fastened as usual with the shutters on the outside. The prisoner was remanded for trial at the assizes, and the witnesses were required to give bonds for their appearance at Court.

CAN SUCH THINGS BE?—The spectacular drama era called into active force the inventive genius of Professor Pepper and other noted scientists, and hence we had Pepper's Ghosts, the Floating Head, etc, to freeze your blood and harrow up souls. From such illusions was but a step to others still more astounding, and among many of less importance a Professor Duchambaud has at last produced an illusion more wonderful and astonishing than any that has preceded it. It is nothing more nor less than a decapitated head that lives, talks, opens and shuts its eyes and performs the other functions of life. The controversy that succeeded the exhibition of the murderer of the Kinig family in France upon the question "Does a decapitated head feel pain?" gave birth to the idea. The machinery for producing the illusion has arrived in town and the head will be exhibited in a day or two.

PIECES OF EIGHT.—The piscicultural establishment of Mr Wilmet, of Newcastle, Ontario, has already received attention in these columns. It appears that Mr Wilmet's aquarium constituted one of the most interesting and attractive features of the recent Provincial Exhibition, held at Toronto. But Mr Wilmet is not the only pisciculturist in Ontario. Brown & Co. of Galt, have embarked in a distinct branch of the same business. Last spring they made the experiment of hatching spaw by artificial means with complete success. They have made arrangements for greatly extending their operations, and next year they expect to hatch out over 40,000. The business of hatching and raising fish by artificial means is no longer in the category of experiments.

THE "SINE QUA NON."—The Standard bearer has stated five times in the columns of his paper that he will support no candidate, vote for no candidate who will not make the "terminus sine qua non" of Confederation. Very well! This vehement declaration is worth as much as the declaration of the same person in the Council last Spring that he would vote against Confederation unless the Canadian Tariff was amended so as to protect British Columbian farmers. He has not a word to say for the farmers now. DeCosmos's pledges, like the proverbial pie-crust, are made to be broken.

JAMAICA.—At a recent sitting of the Legislative Council of Jamaica, the Acting Colonial Secretary laid on the table a despatch from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State, announcing, in the absence of any opposition from the Bishop of Kingston or the Church community in the Island, Her Majesty's assent to the Bill for the dissolution of the Church of England in Jamaica. It was expected that Sir J. P. Grant would return to Jamaica to resume the Government in October. His Excellency had received an addition of £1,000 per annum to his salary.

THE BRITISH NAVY.—The loss of the magnificent turret ship Captain was a sad blow to the nation; but the British Navy will soon receive an addition of two heavily iron-plated "rams." One of the vessels, the Hotspur, is already built, and the other, the Rupert, is in course of construction at the Government yard at Chatham. The armament of the latter will be two 18-ton guns, mounted on a revolving turret. Her measurement is 3,159 tons: it is considered that these will be the most formidable war vessels afloat.

COLONIAL GAOLS.—It has finally leaked out that the Standard is printed in the interest of the Local Government, which has everything to lose and nothing to gain by Confederation. Hence the noted anti-Confederation articles which appear daily in the Standard. It is rumored that should he succeed in defeating the Terms, the Standard bearer will be appointed to the lucrative and snug berth of Inspector-General of the Interior of Colonial Gaols.

Snow.—Yesterday morning the hills in the vicinity of Sooke were clad in white—the first appearance of snow for the season.

VICTORIA DISTRICT.—Nomination in this District will take place at the School house on the Reserve to-day at 12 o'clock. The only candidates are Mr Nuttall and Mr DeCosmos. Mr Nuttall is an ardent Confederationist; while Mr DeCosmos is a well-to-do man, it is hard to say for 24 consecutive hours what he is—but just now he is opposing Confederation tooth and toe-nail.

THEATRE TOTAL.—Last evening "Mazepa" was repeated, and appeared to give great satisfaction to a large audience. The brilliant Leo Hudson and her beautiful and gossamer mare "Black Bess" were, of course, the chief attractions; but the vocal efforts of the Misses Pixley and Miss West, and the acting of Messrs Melville, Thornton, Dennis, Ward and others contributed in a marked degree to the success of the drama. This evening "Dick Turpin" will be produced.

THE RIDE TO YORK.—Who in his young days has read the story of Dick Turpin and not admired the noble beast Bonny Black Bess that seemed almost endowed with reason and carried its rider to the gates of York when pressed by the officers of the law. Whatever may have been the faults of Dick Turpin, the faithfulness of his mare was the admiration of many succeeding generations. This evening the Drama will be produced at the Theatre and Black Bess in real life will appear on the stage and all but speak in her own behalf!

A PROSPEROUS COUNTRY.—The Toronto Globe, a paper not remarkable for sanguine expectations, after reviewing the railway, marine, commercial, manufacturing and industrial progress of the Dominion, says, "It might be difficult, in the whole world, to find a people more favored at the present moment or to whom a greater promise of a happy future is given than the population of this Dominion."

EARLY WINTER.—Eleven years ago to-day—5th November, 1859—A severe frost set in. The Bank of British North America building was in progress of construction and the first coat of mortar on the inside was frozen hard. Thick ice formed in the streets and lakes. About Christmas there was another heavy frost, and after that Spring seemed to break. On the 1st of April following the wild flowers were in full bloom.

ON VIEW.—At R F Pickett & Co's auction rooms, 102 Yates street, the fancy goods to be sold on Tuesday next will be on view to-day and Monday. The goods are well worthy a visit, and ladies are particularly invited to be present.

HALIFAX.—The civic election came off on the 1st ult. There were two candidates for the Mayoralty, the Hon W A Henry, who received 1012 votes, and Alderman Dunbar, who received 748. Mr Henry was consequently elected by a majority of 364.

CANADIAN IMMIGRATION.—According to an official report recently published it appears that the immigration to this country last year was 74,365, being a decrease upon previous years.

THE MAIL STEAMER Isabel, Capt Starr, sailed for Nanaimo yesterday morning at 10 o'clock. She will take in a load of coal and return on Sunday, and on Monday morning at 7 o'clock will sail for Port Townsend to connect with the Alida for Olympia.

ROAD AND SCHOOL TAX.—Six cases were adjudged before Mr Pemberton yesterday, in each of which an order was entered against the summoned party.

THE STEAMSHIP California arrived from Seattle last evening at 5 o'clock and is expected to sail for Portland Tuesday morning at daylight.

NANAIMO DISTRICT.—The show of hands in this District will take place to-day. Both candidates will be on the spot to address the electors.

THE ENTERPRISE sailed for New Westminster yesterday morning at 9 o'clock. She carried a number of passengers and a small freight.

CITY COUNCIL.—The last sitting of the present City Council will take place this evening at 7 o'clock.

THE SPARROWHAWK arrived at Esquimalt last evening at 6 o'clock with His Excellency Gov. Musgrave on board.

SIX VICTORIANS were among the fortunate investors in the lottery. They win an average of about \$75 each.

THE CABLE, it has been ascertained, is broken in two places. The high wind prevents its repair.

THE FIRST SNOW of the season was observed on the Goldstream Mountains yesterday.

THE schooner Favorite sailed yesterday for the West Coast on a trading voyage.

THE MAYORALTY.—Dr Trimble, it is believed, will consent to stand for Mayor again.

A. GILMORE, MERCHANT TAILOR, and General Outfitter, has removed his place of business to the store adjoining the Colonial Hotel and opposite the Colonist Office, on Government street, fourth door from Yates, where he proposes to give his old friends and new customers a chance on the principle of quick sales and small profits.

DRESS-MAKING AND MANTLE-MAKING.—These departments will be opened at London House on Sept 19th, under the charge of a thoroughly experienced cutter, who arrived from England by the California, and who is prepared to produce the latest styles.

WM DALBY.

HAVING LEASED THE Rock Bay Tannery,

From Mr WEBSTER, and purchased THE STOCK in view has now on hand a

LARGE ASSORTMENT OF HARNESS, SOLE, ROUSSET, BRIDLE

APARAJO, CALF, KIP

And other kinds of LEATHER

He has on hand the Best and Largest Assortment of TEAM, DOUBLE AND SINGLE BUGGY

CART, DEAY AND TEAM HARNESS

And has received, EX CORSAIR, OF FROM LONDON

Ladies and Gents' RIDING SADDLES, BRIDLES

AND WHIPS

All of which will be sold CHEAP FOR CASH.

To make room for new Goods

A general assortment of Ladies and Gentlemen's TRUNKS and Valises.

SOLE LEATHER TRUNKS & VALISES

Made to Order. MANUFACTORY and SALESROOM,

St Nicholas Building, Government Street.

The highest Cash Prices paid for Hides, Calf and Sheep Skins.

WM DALBY

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CAUTION. Betts's Capsule Patents

Are being infringed by Importation of Capsules made in contravention of his rights, which necessarily are numerous, BETTS being the original Invention and Sole

Maker in the United Kingdom.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND;

LEICESTER MEETING, 1868.

UNPRECEDENTED SUCCESS

THE FOLLOWING PRIZES WERE AWARDED TO

J. & F. HOWARD,

Britannia Iron Works, Bedford,

The First Prize for the Best Wheel Plough for General Purpose

The First Prize for the Best Wheel Plough for Light Land

The First Prize for the Best Swing Plough for General Purpose

The First Prize for the Best Swing Plough for Light Land

The First Prize for the Best Subsoil Plough.

The First Prize for the Best Harrows for Horse Power.

The First Prize for the Best Steam Cultivating Apparatus for Farms of moderate size.

The First and Only Prize for the Best 5-tined Steam Cultivator.

The First and Only Prize for the Best Steam Harrow

The First and Only Prize for the Best Steam Windlass.

The Silver Medal for their Patent Safety Boiler

J. & F. HOWARD thus received

TEN FIRST PRIZES, ONE SECOND PRIZE

AND A SILVER MEDAL

Carrying off almost every Prize for which they competed, and thus their trial the most severe and prolonged ever known.

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MONITOR.

COLONIST.—Will you refer in the statement to-day, namely, that posed as a candidate for your information I number of influential men myself for the city fully determined to do not lead in that direction some one having more views, may offer himself faithfully.

O.S. C. NUTTALL.

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THE ONLY GOOD SAUCE.

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