

## THE SPELLING EVIL.

The Athenians soruns the myth, had imposed on them by Minos the terribl tax of sevn youths and sevn maidens to besent evry nine years to feed the monster Minotaur, enclosed in endles mazes of a labyrinth in Crete. The third ship bearing this tribut was about to sail when yung Theseus betho't him of posibility of slaying the monster. The tho't first, the galant deed folod. But

## A MORE TERIBL TAX

is imposed on English speaking people by the Minos of unthinking, unreasonabl, and we can now say ignorant fashion. The futurs of thousands and tens of thousands of youths and maidns ar sacrificist anyualy—law compels it—to the hybrid cadmean Minotaur of English speling. Taking time absorbd in home study and scool work in lerning speling and mecanical reading alone, in scool life in Nova Scotia, England and U. S. above time necessary to master same subjects with fonetic speling, two years ar lost absolutly—worse than lost, as more injury than good results from it. Normal scools all over hav shouted at it from morning to evening with *fonic, fonetic and say* method "O Baal hear us." Yet speling remains a task with yung pupils tending to make scool life repulsiv to many. It is certanly chargeabl with nearly all illiteracy in English speaking cuntris, and with a great deal of the truancy and

## GENERAL DISGUST OF LERNING

in elementary scools, and with the most mischivus and systemstic cramming in any enlightnd nation. How can speling in foren languages lesn task of memorizing our derived irregular words? It is pur cram with all mischivus effects of that notorious system intensified in evil effects by its comanding position at the very portals of our educational system. After it is cramd, what is it? Lisen to one of a thousand testimonis: Sayce, professor of filology at Oxford, speaks thus: "English speling has become a mere series of arbitrary combinations,

## AN EMBODIMENT OF WILD GUESSES

and *etymologis* of a pre-scientific age, the hap-hazard caprice of ignorant printers." With a sound system, children cud lern to spel and read mecanically, reasonably and corectly in few months.

PEOPL SHUD RIZE IN THEIR MIGHT, demand that this sacrifice be stopt and the Minotaur slain. Alredy yung Theseus has resolvd. The embodiment of literary lerning in England and America as represented in the filologic societis has with yunanimity agreed on a revised if not a complete fonetic speling. The greatest names in sience, poetry, and councils of the empire hav declared in favor of a reformd speling. Y university corporations, state governments, even the national government of the U. S. hav initiated action. The only real difculty LOW is

## AGREEMENT

on most practical scheme. Within a few years, German governments by edict completed a [partial] reform in their alredy excelent speling. Take away the forces of government prescriptions and examinations which compel us at expens of much time, money and lerning to adhere to our present unsientific and caotic system, and a spontaneous rush for an improved orthograpy will be made at an infinit number of points. This shoz that the work of our governments must be chiefly the

## CO-ORDINATION OF THESE FORCES

of development so as to produce a yuniformal rith language in all cuntris. In scools of Nova Scotia we may yet liv to see a yusles, a mind damaging and a time wasting subject discarded and in its place, yusful, mind developing and fasinating subjects substituted. Two years more can be spent on literary, (not letterary), subjects in the study of language sience and art. Greek and Roman clasics can be comenst two yrs erlier by candidates for classic cours, of modern languages by candidates for comercial cours, while mastery of our own language and the first principls of sience shal be two years in advance in all students. The academy and yuniversity wil next feel an impuls as strong as the comon scool. - PRINCIPAL MAO-KAY in *Herald* (*Halifax, N. S.*)

“Tu difer woz not crim:  
The variing belz med up  
the perfect chim.”

WHITER.