

EDUCATION IN THE OLD COUNTRY Conditions Which New Bill Aims To Remedy Much Confusion Now—At Present "National System" is Not National and Not a System—A Statement by The Minister of Education

(Times' Special Correspondence)

London, Aug. 21.—The defects of our so-called national system of education are two: it is not national and it is not a system.

This sweeping indictment of educational conditions in England was drawn, not by an agitator or "reformer," but by J. A. Pease, education minister in Mr. Asquith's cabinet in introducing in the House of Commons a small bill, which he promises is only a forerunner of a gigantic scheme of education reform to be introduced next year and which real reformers hope will sweep away the present educational chaos and replace it with a scheme, the keynote of which, in the words of a London paper, will be "every man an M. A."

The education system of England, which Mr. Pease says is not a system at all—is much like a Chinese puzzle. No one but the experts, and few of them, know where it begins and where it ends. As a matter of fact, there are half a dozen separate systems and they all overlap. All are more or less inefficient and wasteful on account of this overlapping and lack of co-ordination and most of them are supported more or less by public money.

This statement will be a surprise to many good people who believe that only what is known as the "board schools" are supported from the public funds. It is a fact that the great "public schools," including Eton and Harrow and others where the children of dukes are educated are supported chiefly by endowments—bequests of long dead philanthropists for the education of the children of the poor—and that these endowments are so much considered to be public funds that they are under the control of the charities commission.

Roughly speaking, the schools of England are divided into the following classes:—

Elementary schools, including the "voluntary" and "provided" schools.

Private schools of all grades.

Secondary schools, including the great "public schools."

Above these, of course, are the universities, training colleges and various professional schools.

As far as the great majority of the youth of England are concerned, however, only the elementary schools exist. The law says that every child must be in attending school at five years of age and continue until fourteen; and this law is fairly well enforced. The elementary schools of England and Wales—the systems in Ireland and Scotland are quite different and are not included in the scope of this article—contain 5,075,024 children in the year 1911-12. These elementary schools, as already stated, are divided into two classes—"provided" and "voluntary," and this division has been the cause of much of the backwardness in English education. To explain this division, it is necessary to repeat a little history.

Originally all education in England was in the hands of the church. Before the reformation the monks did what little teaching was done and after the monasteries were suppressed, the parson acted as schoolmaster. Then as the desire for education spread, regular schools were started by the church, in which the teaching was strictly confined to the "three R's" and the catechism.

Gradually, however, it was realized that this system was inadequate and school boards were established in the various "vestries" or parishes, still more or less under ecclesiastical influence, and in 1802 the school boards were abolished and the work of elementary education was given to the county councils.

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have to come from the national funds of his burden and that any increase will since 1902 the local expenditure has increased by about \$17,500,000 and the national grant by only \$8,000,000. In future, said Mr. Pease, these rates of increase must be reversed.

Of course, the new scheme is very much in the air as yet, and there is no doubt that the education minister seized the opportunity of a speech in the House of Commons to express his views on the subject of the probable features will be the raising of the school age to sixteen and this has already raised a storm of protest from the British working man who has never been able to understand why he should be deprived of the money earning services of able bodied boys of ten or twelve and compelled to allow them to waste their time on what he considers such a useless thing as education.

Criticism from another source is expressed by the proposal to extend the feeding of school children to Sundays and holiday time and to make it compulsory on the education authorities instead of merely permissive, as at present. Some time ago it was realized that it was no use trying to educate children who were so insufficiently nourished that their bodies as well as their brains were starved, and the local authorities were allowed to provide breakfasts and dinners for the children on school days.

Now it is being suggested that starving is no more beneficial on Sundays and holidays than on school days, but the superior parents who see in this "noon feeding" of the people the beginning of socialism are many of the terrible things are talking about "weakening the parent's responsibility" and all rest of it.

Other features of the legislation to be proposed next year said the minister for education, are that the government should have the right of appointing a comprehensive survey of educational institutions of every kind that an obligation should be placed on the local authorities to provide intermediate education for all who desired it; and that there should be co-ordination of administrative functions between authorities to prevent overlapping and waste.

The government proposals will impose upon the council of every county and county borough the duty of providing for the development and maintenance of a complete progressive system of education in their area. It will further impose on them the duty of affording the children during the latter years of their elementary school life opportunities of obtaining instruction in agriculture, manual character. For that purpose the resources of the authorities will be extended by removing the limit imposed by the act of 1902 on the amount that might be raised by way of rates for the purpose of higher education.

To secure co-ordination it will be the duty of the board of education to review the schemes made by authorities for those purposes so as to secure the maximum of economy and efficiency by removing the limit imposed by the act of 1902 on the amount that might be raised by way of rates for the purpose of higher education.

With the same object it is proposed to facilitate the establishment of advisory provincial boards of education, which will be empowered to undertake any administrative duties which the authorities are unable to perform. Problems of more than local interest, such as the creation and management of training colleges, and the co-ordination of work in higher technical schools and universities will be referred to these provincial boards, which will have the power to prohibit or limit the exercise of powers for higher education by the smaller authorities, with the minimum of waste, and, if necessary, the larger boroughs or urban districts to complete autonomy. The board of education will take power to decide what is and what is not education. They will confer powers upon local authorities to provide baths, playing-fields and nurseries schools, and will simplify the procedure in connection with obtaining sites for schools.

As to Teachers' Pay

One omission in this scheme which has aroused much criticism is the provision of better pay for teachers. The teachers in the elementary schools now are miserably underpaid and this is being reflected in the increasing difficulty of obtaining recruits in England; for instance, 64.76 per cent of the head teachers receive less than \$1,000 a year, while 21.7 per cent receive less than \$500; 72.80 per cent of the assistant teachers receive between \$500 and \$1,000 a year. These figures apply to certificated teachers, while the uncertificated teachers, of course, fare much worse. 78.03 per cent of the male assistants and 78.33 per cent of the women receive between \$250 and \$375. The average salary of male certificated head teachers is \$880 and of men assistants, \$265, while the figures for women are \$615 for head teachers and \$210 for assistants. In Wales the average figures are, men \$740 and \$375 and women, \$560 and \$340.

The Suffragists are a very small band indeed, and, therefore, easily overcome, but they definitely take up their movement. Anti-Suffragists, on the other hand, are an exceedingly large band; if they would ally themselves with their movement, broken windows, burned houses and churches and similar abominations would cease from that moment.—Miss Leonora M. Truby.

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LUNcheon TO REV. DR. GORDON Friends of Baptist Pastor in Montreal Say Farewell

(Montreal Gazette, Friday)

Professors to his departure from Montreal, where he will take up his work as professor of theology in the Brandon College, a number of friends of Rev. Dr. Gordon, late pastor of the First Baptist church gathered at the Edinburgh Cafe yesterday noon to tender him a farewell luncheon.

There were nineteen guests in all, including Dr. Gordon and his wife. Each of the Baptist churches in the city was represented and each representative in turn expressed the regret felt at the departure of Dr. Gordon from the city, where for the last fourteen years he had done such good work for the denomination and society as a whole, and wished him well in the new work which is about to take up in the west.

The Rev. Gordon Baker, pastor of the Temple Baptist Church, was the chairman, and among those present were Messrs. L. H. Packard, H. A. Barnard, Leslie Barnard, C. P. Rice, J. H. Reid, E. T. Davidson, Arch. Waters, Louis Waters, W. Elliott, Weldon, J. H. Roberts, Dr. Cameron and Rev. Mr. Wilson.

Dr. Gordon replied in an address which was reminiscent of his work in the city, where he had spent the best years and devoted the highest energy of his life to the forwarding of the work in which he had been engaged for over a generation.

Dr. Gordon will leave for Brandon next week.

Distribution Costs

In the search for the causes of the high cost of living one important fact should be kept in mind. More than 80 per cent of the amount realized for our annual crops is spent in handling the same after they leave the farm. In retail purchasing the disparity between the price paid by the consumer is often of ten times that received by the producer. All intelligent efforts that may be made to remedy these conditions should be directed to the distribution of farm products; the inquiry into the rural credits systems of Europe and other farmers' beneficial organizations—all these may answer good purposes. As the means of obtaining immediate results, however, nothing more promising has been suggested than the establishment of a postal express with C. O. D. privileges without weight limit. The encouragement to direct dealings between producer and consumer which this plan would give, places it in the forefront of remedial measures.—Philadelphia Record.

PORT OF ST. JOHN, September 2, P.M.

High Tide... 0.12 Low Tide... 6.32 Sun Rise... 5.53 Sun Sets... 6.54 Time used is Atlantic standard.

ARRIVED YESTERDAY

Stmr Cacoon, 981, Harlot, from Sydney, Starr, coal.

Schr Eddie Theriault, 168, Theriault, from Moncton, bal. Starr, coal.

Schr Hartney W. from Annapolis, Sugar Refinery, brick.

Sailed Yesterday

Stmr Governor Dingley, Clark, for Boston via Maine ports.

Schr Willena Gertrude, Smith, for New York, was in for harbor.

CANADIAN PORTS

Halifax, N. S., Sept 1—Arr stmr Napoli (Italian), from Naples; Volturno, from Rotterdam; Digby and Moncton, from Liverpool.

Stmr Mongolian, for Philadelphia.

BRITISH PORTS

Glasgow, Sept 1—Arr stmr Aethia, from Montreal; Parafian, from London; Montreal, from Montreal.

London, Sept 1—Arr stmr Michigan, from Montreal.

Hull, Aug 28—Arr stmr Algerians, Fairclough, from Montreal via Sydney (C. B.).

Glasgow, Aug 28—Sld stmr Sardinian, Henderson, for Philadelphia.

Dalh, for Miramichi, for Montreal.

Cardiff, Aug 28—Stm Bendu, Jones, for Montreal.

Smith Beavers, a traveling salesman, created some excitement on the west-bound transcontinental train near Los Angeles, Cal., when his trousers, with \$180 in the pockets, fell out of a window. He shouted for a trainman, who telegraphed back for the missing garment. It was eventually recovered, with the money intact.

Make up your mind to insist on getting "DR. FOWLER'S" when you go to your local dealer. Be very careful some of the "phony" preparations that some of the unscrupulous dealers try to pass as "Dr. Fowler's."

See that the name T. T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont., appears on the yellow wrapper. Price 5c.

Dr. Fowler's

EXTRACT OF Wild Strawberry

SOON RELIEVES THEIR TROUBLE WAS DIARRHOEA.

Daily Hints For the Cook

Deviled Ham Rolls

Make light, rather rich pastry, roll thin and cut into squares of about four inches. Spread upon each square a small quantity of deviled ham, leaving about half inch around the edge uncovered, moisten the edges with cold water and roll each sheet of ham and pastry compactly, pressing the ends together and bake.

Cheese Souffle

Three-quarters cup cracker crumbs, one cup milk, half cup grated cheese, two eggs beaten light, one tablespoon butter, salt and pepper, last add a pinch soda dissolved in a little milk. Bake in a quick oven. Nice for supper.

BREAK WHISKEY'S GRIP ON YOUR LOVED ONES

Drunks will tell you with tears of sincerity that they do not want to drink. The craving coming from the inflamed membranes of the stomach drives them to it.

Alcure will soothe the trembling nerves and remove the craving that is ruining your home and stealing an otherwise kind husband or father from you. It costs only \$1.00 per box, and if it does not cure or benefit after a trial the money will be refunded.

Alcure No. 1 is tasteless and can be given secretly in Tea, Coffee or food. Alcure No. 2 is taken voluntarily by those willing to help themselves.

Alcure can now be obtained at our store; ask for Free Booklet telling all about it and give Alcure a trial. E. Clinton Brown, corner Union and Waterloo streets.

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HERPES

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The results following regular applications of Newberr's Herpicide are often wonderful. It not only cleans the scalp entirely of dandruff but helps the coming out, adds to its life, luster and luxuriance which are so essential to beauty.

Newberr's Herpicide is the O. scalp prophylactic. All other hair oils claiming to kill the dandruff are simply trying to trade upon the reputation of genuine Herpicide.

Applications may be obtained at drug shops and hair dressers. Send 10c in postage to The Her Co., Dept. R, Detroit, Mich. for 5c and booklet.

Newberr's Herpicide in 50c and 10c sizes is sold by all dealers who give it to do all that is claimed. If you are simply trying your money will be refunded. E. Clinton Brown, special agent.

THE RIGHT SETTING

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Everett's furniture is always pleasing to the eye. Whether it is the handsomest of park suits, or the simplest of little dining room sets, everything has beauty of outline and finish.

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