

DISMISSING TEACHERS.

An Interesting Paper for Rural Teachers and Trustees.

Mr. E. McPherson Gives his Opinion on the "Acting Trustee"—A Life-like sketch.

The following paper was read at the recent convention of the teachers of West Huron, and was very well received:

We, the teachers of West Huron, meet here and elsewhere, time after time, with the sole object in view of advancing the cause of education. The different ways in which this may be accomplished are as various as the subject is important. I may here be pardoned for mentioning a few of them. We endeavor to arrive at the best means for unfolding the powers of intellect, with which human nature is endowed, so that those under our charge and tuition may learn to reason concisely, clearly and accurately, not only on the subjects treated in our text books, but on all other matters worthy of their attention. This development of intellect in youth committed to our care we regard as one of the prime objects of our teaching. We also endeavor to inculcate the best course for inculcating the importance of morality; for large intellectual capacity without a proportionate sense of moral rectitude to guide it, might not only be dangerous to the individual possessing it, but to the community at large. We likewise strive to make ourselves acquainted with the most effective way of instilling into the minds of our pupils the necessity of a ready and willing obedience to the civil law, and this element of instruction we regard as commanding the teacher's earnest consideration, knowing as we do, that the future prosperity of our country largely depends on the patriotic zeal and good citizenship of those whose mental powers are within our capacity to direct. We also, by interchange of thoughts, try to qualify ourselves to smooth and render as easy and pleasant as possible the path which leads up the hill of knowledge, and upon which our little ones are struggling. We discuss the methods of teaching the different subjects prescribed in our text-books, that we may arrive at the best, and thus make our teaching more successful and confer the greatest benefit on those who employ us. The school law of each every citizen of Ontario should feel proud to receive some consideration at our hands; and our competency to judge of its character and operation, should be conceded by every one. Neither should we be charged with presumption or arrogance, on discovering a defect in the law, to call attention to it, and, if possible, suggest a remedy; for it must be borne in mind that we are citizens of this favored country as well as teachers. The part of the school law which I most respectfully direct your attention to is that which empowers Trustees to dismiss teachers at their pleasure, without any let or hindrance. Hence my subject will be, as announced in programme—"Dismissal of Teachers by Trustees."

I will begin my investigation of the subject by asking the question "Why is the teacher dismissed?" The answer is at hand "For inefficiency," for let it be here observed to the credit of the teacher that any other cause is rarely assigned than the one just named. But who has the right to judge of the teacher's merit or demerit, as the case may be? Who are the best acquainted with the progress of the school or its lack of progress? Just the one who has little or nothing to say on the dismissal or retention of the teacher. I mean the inspector. I am firmly of the opinion that were the concurrence of the inspector necessary to the dismissal of the teacher, fewer would leave the profession, and a measure of protection would be afforded to those who remained in it. The matter, however, will be submitted to this convention in a formal manner at a future stage of progress. There is another consideration in connection with this question to which I would respectfully invite your attention, and that is the assurance that I would be the last to even insinuate anything derogatory to the character of the teacher. Still I am firmly impressed with the belief that if the inspector had a voice in the dismissal of the teacher, the result would be beneficial to the school by increasing the assiduity of the teacher, who would rely wholly on his work for retention of his position.

Again, the exercise of a dual power in the case of the inspector himself, who if understood the matter aright, cannot be discharged from office without the concurrence of the Government and the county council. Now, if the principle holds good in the one case why not in the other? The above views I have long entertained, not through any selfish motives, as my term in the profession cannot be long, but through a desire to see my fellow teachers on a better footing than they now are. I thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for your kind attention.

Christian's Select Reading.

An Interesting Pulpit Discourse by Rev. A. B. Meldrum.

Good Reading a Duty—The Importance of Christian People Not Only Reading Choice Literature, but of Uniting to Condemn that of a Low Tone.

From the Alta Californian, Oct. 12.

At St. John's Church, yesterday morning, Rev. A. B. Meldrum, at the request of several of the members of his church, repeated his discourse on "The Christian's Select Reading." The text was 1 Timothy, iv., 13—"Give attendance to reading." The following is a brief outline of the discourse: "As to depth, consistency and permanence, will be powerfully affected by reading. If a single word spoken by a friend can under some circumstances stir the soul into activity, much more may the words of some wise and gifted author whose sentiments are now calmly reviewed in all their harmony and connections. Not even the hearing of the truth as it is proclaimed from the pulpit can set aside the necessity for reading. In order to act aright in all the needs and interests of private and official and domestic life, we require as well to have the truth from books. A professing Christian who is utterly indifferent to good books, unavoidably creates a far as to the sincerity, depth and stability of his religion. Such a Christian may enter spiritually minded, and will never reach those souls who in this world drank in life and light from every fountain in which they could be found. The Apostle Paul knew the value of the practice when he said to the young Apostle Timothy, 'Give attendance unto reading.' He knew the tendency of good reading to form large, active and aggressive minds. And if ever the Church of God feedeth such a sacred Scripture, we can rest with progress has to be fought for, and faithful and fanatic are in league to destroy her."

THE FOUNTAIN OF READING.

The pure Word of God claims our chief attention. Words cannot express what wisdom, right, purity and tenderness of spirit will flow from a steady, systematic and prayerful reading of the sacred Scriptures. It is common that the reason why so many literary men disbelieve the Bible is, that they are ignorant of its contents, and the same may be the reason why so many laymen even to read this book Divine. From the excellence of the Scriptures, we can rest with gratification not to be found in any other book of the past or present time. There is no expression nor conception of the human mind that may not here find a corresponding picture. No threefold full supply, and no condition of humanity excluded from the unlimited scope of its adaptation and sympathy. The Christians who are most eminent for firmness, wisdom and catholicity, are those who read the Scriptures with Scriptural truth. The preparation of all, with diligence, preparation and prayer, "search the Scriptures" is the imporation of new life, strength and robustness to their Christian character. Next to reading the Scriptures, themselves, the reading of expository works is the most edifying and instructive exercise to which the mind can brace itself.

HIDDEN TRUTHS.

Revelation is always revealing, itself, believing men who are from intellectual pride are daily discovering in the word of God what has been hidden from the "wise and prudent" from the beginning of the world. They do not behold new and primary truths, but they behold new and glorious radiations of the light which proceeds from those which are ancient as well as primary. Often is the soul excited and roused into action by reading the works of such men. "Reading," says Lord Bacon, "is the best schoolmaster, and the contiguous study of the Holy Scriptures and the works of others on them cannot but fill the mind with ample stores, from which he may be always drawing with advantage to himself and to those with whom he is brought daily into contact. Next to Scripture and Scripture exposition, individual history or biography is the most profitable reading. Sacred biography not only holds truth before the mind, but holds it in action. The great number of instances of practical human life can bring within the compass of our reflections, the more enlarged will be our views of the unsearchable riches of Jesus Christ. To the man who wishes himself to read biography well, every life has its lessons, and death its voice. If we familiarize our minds with instances of men who have lived above the world, and on some occasions above themselves, the work of faith will be increasingly alluring to our souls."

EFFECT OF GOOD BOOKS.

The direct tendency of such reading is to hallow the memory and the imagination. Contrast the general results of such reading with those which flow from reading the works of fiction, and the words of fiction with which this land is flooded, not one in ten can be read with intellectual or moral profit. The general habit of novel reading has the tendency to destroy the taste for what is useful and true. We would regard the human mind according to its nature and capacities, we must be among the advocates of sound taste and useful truth, and the men of learning who have claims on our high regard, and above all, adherents to the most elevated and richest treasure the earth contains. Let us read pure books—books suggestive only of pure thoughts. Thoughts make the man. They constitute mainly a man's being—exercise and control it. Let a man keep out from his mind all evil thoughts and he is in no danger this life will take care of itself. The most successful method of getting darkness out of a room is to let light in. So the most successful way to get rid of evil thoughts is by storing the mind with useful truth, which can best be accomplished by prayerful, careful and cultivated religious reading. The hours spent in this way will not be lost—the truth here uttered will be stored in the eternal memory.

A GOOD RECORD.

The Mowat Government Right Every Time.

Hon. G. W. Ross, at Lindsay, Shows up the Ignorance of Macdonald.

Our policy has been a manly policy, and it ought to be. I believe in the rights of citizenship; I believe in all the rights which were guaranteed to our forefathers by Magna Charta, supplemented in later years by the Petition of Rights, habeas corpus and other concessions to the people, down to the present time. Our policy as a government has been to maintain for the province of Ontario all these rights which she was guaranteed under the constitution, and when the spoiler placed his hands on the license law of the province, when he declared that the Crooks act was not worth the paper it was written on; when he proceeded to appoint his inspectors and his commissioners until they became as numerous as the locusts of Egypt; (Hear, hear, and laughter); when he sought to despoil Ontario of its resources; when the Canadian King John, the modern usurper of the people's rights (Hear, hear, and laughter); when he sought to take the all—No, not at all, said we to his majesty, (laughter).

"HANDS OFF, OLD MAN." But that would not do, so we went from one court to another until finally we got his majesty before the Privy Council. And what did the privy council say? They said the Crooks act was worth the paper it was written on, the modern King John to the contrary notwithstanding; it was a binding obligation which Sir John dare not constitutionally violate, and he had to take his hands off. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) But the question of wholesale licenses and licenses on inland waters still remained unsettled, and Sir John said he would have that any way. We said no! We believe that is our law, and to day the Hon. Christopher Pinkey, a Canadian, a man whom every Canadian should feel proud (Loud cheers) is in England to defend our rights in that question before the privy council, and on the 11th of November we expect a verdict, for you know we are never beaten yet before the privy council. (Loud cheers.) Would we not be a craven hearted lot if we did not stand up for your rights? This same man had his eye on some hundred thousand square miles of land which we believed belonged to us, in what we call sometimes the "put up territory"—a tract containing 64,000,000 acres of land, and containing according to one of Sir John's own officers, timber worth \$120,000,000 besides valuable minerals. But said Sir John in his speech, we can rest with its full supply, and no condition of humanity excluded from the unlimited scope of its adaptation and sympathy. The Christians who are most eminent for firmness, wisdom and catholicity, are those who read the Scriptures with Scriptural truth. The preparation of all, with diligence, preparation and prayer, "search the Scriptures" is the imporation of new life, strength and robustness to their Christian character. Next to reading the Scriptures, themselves, the reading of expository works is the most edifying and instructive exercise to which the mind can brace itself.

RESIGNATION OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE.

His Official Career a Terrible Failure—A Scathing Criticism of His Handling of the Finances.

From the Hamilton Times.

Sir Leonard Tilley has resigned the position of Minister of Finance on account of ill health. We are sorry that Sir Leonard is sick; we sympathize with him and his family in their personal affliction, and we are sorry on political grounds. We believe that Sir Leonard has done a great deal of harm to his fellow countrymen. He has framed, introduced and defended a tariff that has robbed a large majority of Canadians in order to enrich a few, and by so doing he has decreased the aggregate wealth of the country as well as secured a most unjust distribution of the products of labor. Circumstances aided the delusions of Sir Leonard. He had pronounced that the taxation of farm produce would benefit the farmers, and it so happened that, for some time after the tariff went into force, there were good crops in Canada and short crops in Europe. Prices would have been high here, no matter what tariff was in force, but many farmers were persuaded that their thanks were due to Sir Leonard for the good prices they were receiving. The temporary prosperity of the farmers caused an active demand for manufactured goods, and there was plenty of employment at fair wages for mechanics and laborers. Sir Leonard took all the credit for this also, and in the elections of 1882 he was wonderfully popular. Since that time, the price of farm produce has dropped to an unprecedentedly low figure, and the demand for manufactured goods has been so small that many factories have been closed and many workmen have been deprived of their customary employment. Men who are capable of thinking must know that Sir Leonard deceived them—that he was not the great benefactor he had pretended to be—and we should have liked to see Sir Leonard on hand in full vigor at the day of reckoning. It would be a satisfaction to the men who have an account to settle with him.

GRATEFUL—COMFORTING.

When the boom was on, Sir Leonard advised business men to crowd on all sail and be ready for seven years of uninterupted prosperity. Within a year from the time when these words were spoken, factories were closing all through the land, bankruptcies were frequent, bank stocks were falling, and capital was unable to earn dividends. We are sorry that Sir Leonard will not be in his place to be confronted with the facts and asked to explain why he deceived the people. Sir Leonard largely increased the taxation when he became Minister of Finance, and he has added to it at intervals since 1873. The increase of taxation at a time when business was reviving brought large sums into the public treasury, and though expenditures were also largely increased, there were surplus revenues for a few years. Sir Leonard made his calculations on the basis of continual depression. He berated his predecessor who had been obliged to report deficits during a time of depression. Great was Sir Leonard, the man of surprises! Just before his retirement from office, he had been obliged to report a large deficit. The expenditures for the fiscal year 1884-85 exceed the revenue by a large amount, and was ever recorded when Sir Richard Cartwright was Minister of Finance. We are sorry that Sir Leonard will not be in his place to be confronted with the facts and asked to explain why he deceived the people. Sir Leonard promised, when he introduced his tariff in 1873, that he would adjust the duties in such a way that the exports would in future be equal to or in excess of the imports. Said he (Hansard, 1873, page 413):

Regarding the matter as I do, I think it is to be regretted that the volume of imports has not been materially reduced. I look upon the large imports ever since the Dominion was organized, showing a large balance of trade against it, as one of the causes of the troubles with which we have to contend—one of the difficulties that it is our duty, if possible to remedy. They have been decreasing to a certain extent, but are still very large, showing distinctly and clearly, in my judgment, that they ought still to be further diminished. That was very foolish talk. The utterance of those words was of itself enough to prove Sir Leonard's unfitness to be Finance Minister. He ought to have known that when a man or a community sells goods, the sale is made with the desire and expectation of receiving a profit—of getting back more than is given. No man wants to give more value than he gets, no country wants to export more value than it imports. Sir Leonard ought to have known too that if he wanted to keep imports down he must put on borrowing abroad, for loans would surely come to Canada in the form of goods. He got out his balance of trade nonsense, and then began to negotiate a series of loans of British money to be expended on Canadian public works. Of course the result gave the lie to all Sir Leonard's predictions. He made the balance-of-trade speech, from which we have quoted, in 1870. The following table from the Trade and Navigation Returns shows how his scheme failed to work:

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Excess of exports. Sir Leonard was no more successful in controlling the balance of trade than he was in giving continuous good prices to the farmers for their produce, fair returns to capitalists on their investments or steady employment to mechanics and laborers. If ever there was a financial quack, his name was Sir Leonard Tilley, and we are sincerely sorry that his health will not permit him to remain in office and face the music.

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John Webber passes fellow workmen who sidewalk outside the Machine company's work evening, with a quick, It had been a very hot not yet set, and was rays along the street, I look good colored and d of everybody who fac seemed clear and warm the men scolded about i grines faces with an inj dignant gesture, as if of personal injustice afte day.

"Where are you racin ber?" somebody asked several of his friends in a group turned to look at "Goin' home," resp cheerfully, as he passed and when somebody a love to the baby!" in a meant to be provoking, his head with mock reser "Hold on!" called th "We're gettin' togeth of us want to hire Jone's day and go down to the late Saturday, quick's we shop, and get back som night. Jones'll take us a piece, if we can get 24 go."

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GRATEFUL—COMFORTING.

When the boom was on, Sir Leonard advised business men to crowd on all sail and be ready for seven years of uninterupted prosperity. Within a year from the time when these words were spoken, factories were closing all through the land, bankruptcies were frequent, bank stocks were falling, and capital was unable to earn dividends. We are sorry that Sir Leonard will not be in his place to be confronted with the facts and asked to explain why he deceived the people. Sir Leonard largely increased the taxation when he became Minister of Finance, and he has added to it at intervals since 1873. The increase of taxation at a time when business was reviving brought large sums into the public treasury, and though expenditures were also largely increased, there were surplus revenues for a few years. Sir Leonard made his calculations on the basis of continual depression. He berated his predecessor who had been obliged to report deficits during a time of depression. Great was Sir Leonard, the man of surprises! Just before his retirement from office, he had been obliged to report a large deficit. The expenditures for the fiscal year 1884-85 exceed the revenue by a large amount, and was ever recorded when Sir Richard Cartwright was Minister of Finance. We are sorry that Sir Leonard will not be in his place to be confronted with the facts and asked to explain why he deceived the people. Sir Leonard promised, when he introduced his tariff in 1873, that he would adjust the duties in such a way that the exports would in future be equal to or in excess of the imports. Said he (Hansard, 1873, page 413):

Regarding the matter as I do, I think it is to be regretted that the volume of imports has not been materially reduced. I look upon the large imports ever since the Dominion was organized, showing a large balance of trade against it, as one of the causes of the troubles with which we have to contend—one of the difficulties that it is our duty, if possible to remedy. They have been decreasing to a certain extent, but are still very large, showing distinctly and clearly, in my judgment, that they ought still to be further diminished. That was very foolish talk. The utterance of those words was of itself enough to prove Sir Leonard's unfitness to be Finance Minister. He ought to have known that when a man or a community sells goods, the sale is made with the desire and expectation of receiving a profit—of getting back more than is given. No man wants to give more value than he gets, no country wants to export more value than it imports. Sir Leonard ought to have known too that if he wanted to keep imports down he must put on borrowing abroad, for loans would surely come to Canada in the form of goods. He got out his balance of trade nonsense, and then began to negotiate a series of loans of British money to be expended on Canadian public works. Of course the result gave the lie to all Sir Leonard's predictions. He made the balance-of-trade speech, from which we have quoted, in 1870. The following table from the Trade and Navigation Returns shows how his scheme failed to work:

Table with columns: Years, Imports, Exports, Excess of Imports. Data for years 1870-1884 showing a consistent trade deficit.