

THE HAMILTON TIMES

MONDAY, JAN. 27, 1908.

EDUCATION MUDDLING.

Hon. Dr. Pyne, Minister of Education, has issued another pronouncement on the Ontario school system, and what he proposes to do to "reform" it. This circular is chiefly remarkable because of the facts, that his much-boasted scheme of "approved schools," from which pupils may be admitted to the training colleges without examination has been so "modified" as to be almost unrecognizable; that a large part of the circular is taken up with complaints about the results secured by the public schools, and that while he alleges that "we have educated too many for clerical and professional pursuits," it is announced that "in due course, the pressure of examinations for professional tests will be lessened."

The Education Department seems to be quite at sea. So far is it from having any definite policy, that the Minister in this circular actually talks of it being "the aim of the Education Department to place upon the trustees and the teachers the responsibility of providing, according to local needs, the education for his life work, which every pupil has the right to receive." Think of that, will you! Moreover, the teacher is to be held personally responsible for the taking account "of our economic condition," and, no doubt, with any change there, he must be prepared to "educate" his pupils according to it!

The Minister harps much upon the alleged evil of examinations. This is pure buncombe. No pupil in the public schools need take a single examination. If he wishes to enter the Collegiate Institute he is submitted to a test of his fitness to pass from the Public School into the secondary school. The subjects upon which he is examined are those which he has been studying in the lower school. That test is a proper one, and no reasonable person questions its wisdom. Having entered the secondary school, no pupil, who is not heading for a professional or university career, is subjected to a single departmental examination. He simply studies his lessons, recites them to his preceptors, and from time to time is examined in class as to his progress. From the time he enters the first book class in the public school until he reaches the highest form in the Collegiate Institute, no other test is required of him.

The Minister complains that we have educated too many for professional careers. To whom would he forbid such choice? What are the facts? The examinations about which he parrots so much, stand only in the way of the student aiming at a professional career; they do not affect those who seek not to enter the profession. How does Dr. Pyne propose to remedy the alleged bent toward the professions of the education now given by our schools? How indeed? By removing the "pressure of examinations for professional tests?" Great head was Dr. Pyne!

But really, hasn't this examination bogey been exhibited so frequently that it is beginning to cease to terrify the public? Doesn't some test as to qualification in a professional education commenced itself to the common sense of intelligent men? What will Dr. Pyne have in such a course, if not examinations? And with regard to the "non-professional" pupil who is not submitted to departmental examinations, will the Minister issue a ukase forbidding the teachers, on severe pains and penalties, to look over the pupils' written work, or criticize their oral recitations, lest such might be regarded as coming under the condemnation of "examinations?"

This triple-headed Education Department does a lot of language-mangling about "reforming" the school system. The first reform required, is that those in authority should learn what education really means, and get rid of the childish notion that the best way to obtain a good crop is to dig up the growing seeds every few days, cut away their rootlets, and plant them in different soil. Meantime the sympathy of the public will be extended to the teachers.

GREAT PRINCIPLE AT STAKE.

Not satisfied with the enormous advantage given by the construction of a power line at the expense of all the people of Ontario, whether they be users of power or not, a large proportion of whom are so situated that they can never hope to come within the range of the benefit to be derived by those who enjoy cheap power, the municipal authorities of London are now asking to be armed with authority to shut out from that city any concern which may be in a position to supply power at a low price. It looks, too, as if the London municipal power scheme promoters were working on a campaign to get the authorities of the towns around to join them in the effort to shut out competition. That it is the Hamilton Radial Company that their efforts are directed against matters little; that is but an incident. A great principle is involved. The people of Ontario have the right to the fullest benefits of cheap power. If municipal corporations are to have the power to close the municipalities against all power companies which are or may become competitors with the Provincial Hydro-Electric scheme such municipal corporations at once become elements of the greatest danger to the Provinces. Millions upon millions of dol-

lars of private capital—the money of enterprising Canadians and that of British and foreign capitalists who have been induced to invest in this fair country—have been put into power plants in Ontario. The Province, by reason of the prestige given it by cheap power, has had the eyes of the world turned towards it. Its development has been rapid and has been attended by a confidence in the future of the country which is one of Ontario's best assets. To shake that confidence now would be a fatal mistake, and nothing that could be done would more effectively shake it than the very thing which London is proposing. The situation is one that demands a firm hand. The Ontario Government cannot afford to have it said that the success of the Beck power scheme depends upon shutting out competition and killing private enterprise. Moreover, the Dominion Government cannot, and, we are sure, will not, be a party to any such proposition. Capital must have the right to investment, and, having been invested, must have the right to demand fair treatment. If municipalities that take up the Hydro-Electric power scheme are at once to become great monopolies, shutting out competition to enable them to keep up prices in order to make a good showing; saying to companies that have shouldered all the risks of developing electricity and all the cost and losses of the experimental stages of transmission, that they shall not be allowed to do business, then the Ontario Government's power scheme will prove a curse instead of a blessing. Surely with such advantages the Government's scheme does not depend for its success upon the violation of fundamental principles; the killing of private enterprise, or even the desire, which is apparent in the London case, to deprive the people of that part of Ontario of the right to buy in the cheapest market.

INTERESTS US ALL.

That "intellectual preference" which Hon. Mr. Lemieux, the Postmaster-General, has helped to push forward with the aid of the British Postmaster-General, has met with the warmest appreciation of the British publishers of magazines, periodicals and newspapers. After fifteen years' effort of these publishers, the postage on these publications to Canada has been reduced to one penny a pound. This is looked upon as a great concession, but efforts are yet being made looking to have it made a half-penny a half pound, which would make a bigger difference than we would at first imagine, as many parcels do not exceed the half-pound. Sir Hugh Gilzean-Heid, L.L.D., F.J.I. (brother of Mr. W. G. Reid, of this city), is chairman of the committee which has charge of this matter, the members of which represent publications of the capital value of over one hundred million pounds sterling, in the "work already done" is considered by Sir Hugh as "a great beneficent triumph, and will do enormous good to both countries." That will be better understood, when we consider some of the statements made at the meetings of these publishers. Sir Hugh said that "when he was in Canada some time ago, he found that the country was literally flooded with American publications, most of them good as literature, but many of them tainted with anti-British sentiment, and some sensationally vulgar. Canadians, it was everywhere declared, would greatly prefer the popular literature of the Mother Country; and as the question there, as well as here, is one entirely apart from any political distinctions, all classes are united—in their own interest as well as that of the Empire—to use every legitimate means in order to secure an early and reasonable reduction in the now practically prohibitive rates of postage, so that British publications of every description might be largely imported and distributed throughout the Dominion." It might be stated here that Canadians were not as anxious to have a prohibitive rate put upon the United States publications (as that meant retaliation), as they were for cheap postage with the old country. There is a sentimental side to this question of postage, but the commercial side is one that should not be overlooked. Sir Hugh, speaking of this, said:

Such arrangements as we propose would have the inevitable result of enabling our merchants and manufacturers to compete on much more favorable terms with their foreign rivals for the trade of our colonies than they are at present able to do, and this would, of course, be particularly so in the case of Canada, where we meet with most active and aggressive trade opposition from the United States, which are favored by their geographical position, and are placed in an almost overwhelming position of superiority by the fact that their newspapers, periodicals, and magazines, by the advertising which they carry, circulate without any embargo or disadvantage among people with whom they and we ourselves are trying to do business.

Mr. L. Upcott Gill also dwelt upon the commercial features of the question, that freer entry of British publications into the colonies would inevitably be followed by a larger trade between the mother country and them by reason of the larger knowledge Canadians and others would get as to new processes and manufactures from the articles and advertisements therein; the advertisements, he said, were in reality "travellers" for the houses they represented. In a draft of a statement to be presented to the British Postmaster-General the statement is made that "it is, indeed, the opinion of many who are well qualified to judge, that even were the carriage of periodicals to the Colonies conducted by the Post Office at a loss, this loss would be more than compensated by the stimulus given to other and profitable business, such as communications by letter, telegram, and postcard, and postage of samples and small packages." The following

also appears in the statement of the committee:

A prominent Canadian engineer has recently written to a member of this deputation to the effect that American technical literature practically holds the field in Canada, and that the pages of such journals are crammed with the announcements of American manufacturers. He added that in consequence of this state of affairs the American manufacturer is given an advantage over the British, with which the latter is quite unable to cope under existing conditions. Hon. Mr. Lemieux, our Postmaster-General, is receiving many honors and compliments these days, and if ever there was a coming man he looks like one. At a meeting of these British publishers the following resolution was adopted with acclamation, ordered to be engrossed, and forwarded to Canada:

That the Colonial Postage Reform Committee tenders its grateful thanks to the Postmaster-General of Canada (the Hon. Rudolphe Lemieux), for his active and practical co-operation in securing the large reduction of postal rates on British publications transmitted to Canada, and expresses its conviction that the concessions made—as he fittingly puts it—in the direction of "intellectual preference" will prove to be of immense benefit to both countries.

Should this reduction of postage, or a further reduction, on British publications have the result that is anticipated, there will be a great increase in trade between the old land and Canada. United States publications, with their thousands of advertisements of all kinds of manufactures, etc., scattered broadcast over Canada, draw trade across the border. With the same advantage in the matter of advertising the British manufacturer and merchant should have a much better chance of getting a share of Canada's trade than they now have.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Free Speech appears to have made Mr. Fowler speechless.

Joe Downey is not joking these days. Those by-elections were anything but a joke.

The "testament traitor" is a new one coined by the Spectator. It surely can't mean Mayor Stewart?

Toronto is talking about a subway, a tube line and an elevated road just as if it were New York.

If Whitney's power policy is to kill off all private competition, the province would be better off without his power.

Every now and again a loud cry goes up for more railways, but when one comes along all kinds of opposition is raised against it.

Eight new banks are seeking charters. Would it not be well to go slowly in the matter of multiplying new financial ventures, at present?

All signs point to a return to power of the Liberal party at the coming general elections. Hamilton might as well get ready to climb into the band wagon.

Nobody, we hope, wants to see Salt-fret go dry except in a legal way. If enough of proper votes were not cast in favor of local option, the temperance people should not grumble at the decision.

We are not so much interested as to whether a particular man is Grit or Tory as we are that the people should have a fair opportunity to vote for the men they want as aldermen whatever their politics might be.

Mr. S. Barker is one of the leading hunters in the quest of scandal. South Huron and Stanstead should have opened his eyes to the fact that the people are becoming terribly tired of the mud rake statesmen.

Perhaps some of our industrial concerns could manage to so arrange their affairs as to take on as many men as they can as soon as possible and help to relieve any distress that there is among the unemployed.

When the Herald said that domestic trade was more valuable to a country than foreign trade we thought it might have some other reason for believing that than Adam Smith's statement. We had no idea that it took Smith for a guide.

Miss Baxter, whose presence of mind and prompt action saved the life of a workman at the Westinghouse works on Friday, is one of those unassuming heroines whose bravery is apt to be allowed to pass unnoticed. Miss Baxter not only saved a life, but set an example for a large number of terror-stricken fellow-employees. We commend her case to the consideration of Mr. Brown and the Board of the Royal Canadian Humane Society.

The United States Interstate Commerce Commission has recently announced a decision of considerable interest to Canadian railways. It is that a Canadian road having joint through rates from a point in the United States to points on its own line may not depart from these rates by the device of placing an agent at the United States point with authority to sell tickets from the first station on its line north of the Canadian boundary to other points on its line in Canada at a rate of one cent per mile.

The Canadian banks are steadily strengthening their position. In the last five months the current Canadian loans have been decreased over \$24,500,000. Even at that, they are \$8,000,000 higher than in December, 1906. Current loans elsewhere than in Canada decreased at December, 1907, \$19,546,043 as compared

with the record of December, 1906. Call loans in Canada are also over \$13,000,000 less, while call loans elsewhere were over \$15,000,000 less. If carefulness on the part of the Canadian banks will help to ward off financial trouble, the country will be protected.

DEDICATION OF WINDOWS.

IMPRESSIVE SERVICE IN ALL SAINTS' CHURCH YESTERDAY.

Two Stained Glass Windows, in Memory of Former Parishioners' Add to Beauty of the Church.

The dedication ceremony in connection with the two memorial windows recently donated to All Saints' Church and the large reduction of postage on British publications transmitted to Canada, and expressed its conviction that the concessions made—as he fittingly puts it—in the direction of "intellectual preference" will prove to be of immense benefit to both countries.

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WOLFE-MONTCALM.

Some Suggestions as to the Proposed Monument.

To the Editor of the Times:

Sir,—Whatever may be the intention of those who have in hand the restoration of the historic Plains of Abraham, and if a suitable memorial is to be raised thereon, let them not forget, in honoring the death of Wolfe, the equally gallant Montcalm, the officers and battalions of France, the colony troops, the New England men, the sailors of the fleets, nor the Indian allies. Let each be equally emblazoned on the tablets of fame, if such is to be the idea.

Perhaps just such another battle as that of Quebec was never fought. The events leading to its final scene, and the glory and heroism of the day, are a complicity of blood-thrilling pictures, found only on the canvases of this never land. In the very faintest imagination of it all the mind must run riot. The black uniforms and the little black three-cornered hats of the troops of old France; the painted and trinketed Indians, the blue-suited colony militia, the wild and intrepid Highlanders, the buckskin fringed garments of the New Englanders, and the scarlet tunics of the British line. Under an autumn sky, in the distant background, were the primeval forests, as still and solemn as the grave.

On such a field erect a memorial arch greater and more beautiful than Napoleon's arch of triumph, and it would still be a trifling tribute to the glory of these plains. Embellish its columns with tablets of brass, so that all the world may read and wonder till the years grow cold.

Tablet 1. General James Wolfe, etc. Dates, etc. Officers, etc. Regiments of the Line. Louisbourg Troops, etc. Royal Americans. The Fleet. Admiral Saunders. Admiral Holmes. Ships, etc.

Tablet 2. Marquis de Montcalm, etc. Dates, etc. Officers, etc. Levis and Bangainville (anyway). Regiments of the Line. La Salle, etc. La Reine, etc. Guienne, etc. Bearn, etc. Royal Roussillon, etc. Languedoc, etc. The Colony Troops, etc.

Tablet 3. The Indian Tribes, etc. Iroquois. Hurons. Nipissings. Algonquians. Micmacs. Malecites. Ottawaes. Ojibwas. Mississagas. (And any others.) The Founders of Quebec. Cartier (with dates). Champlain (with dates). Frontenac (with dates). Laval (with dates). Etc. J. A. SINGOLAIR.

TO OUR CITY FATHERS.

By J. Pottinger. Tell me if those elected To be aldermen, are certain of their office True and faithful fall! Will they give into each question Always true answers? Will they do their duty ever Faithful to each obligation? Will the mayor and his colleagues Deal out justice unto all So that none throughout the future Some unfairness can recall? Will the revenue collected Be applied as it should be; And of some misapplication All the aldermen be free? So that those assessed for taxes Have no cause to be afraid, That the money will be squandered, To the city, they have paid? May they all in true allegiance Unto this ambitious town Show to all the world this city Ever is of great renown? Gravity is only the bark of wisdom, But it preserves it.—Confucius.

Tuesday, Jan. 28 1908 SHEA'S Black Beau de Soie Silk Worth 65c on Sale for 47 1/2c

Our Greatest Winter Clearing Sale

A Rousing Sale of Corsets--\$1 and \$1.25 Values for 69c Hundreds of pairs of Elegant Corsets, in grey, white and black, made of coutil and Boston cloth; most of them filled with rust-proof steels. Corsets that sell regularly for \$1.00 and \$1.25, on sale for per pair 69c

Knitted Underskirts--A Slaughter--65c Values for 39c Women's German Knit Underskirts, in splendid quality and good dark colors; worth 60c and 69c, on sale to clear each 39c

Women's Blouses--Biggest Bargain Yet--\$2 and \$2.50 Values for \$1.19 Women's Waists, made of Luster Cashmere, Delaine and fancy wool materials; some of them very richly embroidered and all well finished; both long and 3/4 sleeves; garments that sell regularly for \$2.00 and \$2.50, on sale for each \$1.19

Women's Golf Waists Half Price--\$2.50 Values for \$1.25 Beautifully fine Golf Waists, made in splendid quality yarn, all pure wool, in the very newest shapes, all good dark and light colors and color combinations; worth \$2.50, some worth \$3.00, on sale for each \$1.25

Biggest Bargain Yet in Table Damask--75c Values for 42 1/2c Beautifully fine Silver Bleached Table Damask, every thread pure flax, and the very newest patterns. The case it was imported in got a little damp in transit, not enough to hurt the linen, but enough to make a claim on the Steamship Co., so you get 75c Damask absolutely perfect in every way for per yard 42 1/2c

The best bargains in Women's Coats we have ever offered and better bargains than we have ever seen offered in Hamilton, now on sale in our mantle department.

The Daily Fashion Hint.



Attractive gown of tobacco brown voile. Yoke and undersleeves are of ecru batiste. The rolling collar and cuffs are of brown velvet, embroidered with gold dots and edged with gilt braid. Large gilt buttons fasten the blouse at one side.

THE WORLD'S MATCHMAKING.

The Demand to be Supplied is Three Million Lucifers a Minute. The civilized nations of the world strike 8,000,000 matches every minute of the twenty-four hours. Nearly one-half of these are ignited in this country. Americans use up the enormous total of 700,000,000,000 a year and have a larger match bill than any other nation in the world.

Matches are manufactured in many ways and with numerous kinds of machinery, and for that reason a description of an operation in one factory would not apply to another. Nearly every manufacturing company has machinery made specially for its use, and covered by patents, and it also employs processes discovered or devised by its own chemists and mechanics, and kept secret to prevent rivals from obtaining and profiting by them. A single machine has been known to turn out 177,926,400 matches in one day—boxed and labeled ready for shipment.

Some matches are shaved with the grain from sawed blocks, some are cut both ways by saws. In some factories the blocks are belled to make them cut easily. By some machines a boiled or steamed log is revolved on its own axis and a shaving—the thickness of a match—is cut round and round. This shaving is at the same time cut into lengths and split into many sticks. There is hardly a limit to the varieties of methods employed. Round matches are made by forcing them through dies. The Japanese make paper matches, which are wood after all.—Kansas City Star

WORKERS FOR SCIENCE.

The American Association and its Objects and Meetings. The American Association for the Advancement of Science does not appear to be as well known throughout Canada as it was in former years, although it was originally intended for this country as well as for the United States. Out of a present membership of upwards of 5,000, it is said that less than 1 per cent. belong to this half of the continent. In 1857 the ninth meeting of the association was held in Montreal, through the influence of the late Sir William Logan, and a subsequent meeting was held here in 1882. At the annual meeting, lately held in Chicago, only about a dozen Canadians were present. Montreal was represented by Professor Penhallow and Major H. H. Lyman, and Ottawa by Dr. James Fletcher, Dr. Otto Klotz and Dr. Robert Bell. The following interview shows the present work of the association:

In reply to enquiries by the Ottawa Free Press, Dr. Bell said the association was formed in 1849, so that the meeting just closed was the fifty-eighth. From small beginnings it grew rapidly in membership and importance and now corresponds in every way with the older British Association for the same purpose. Its list for 1907 shows upwards of 5,000 members and fellows. The annual meetings are held in the larger cities of the United States and Canada. The place of next meeting is chosen by the council from among those which send invitations.

Three meetings have been held in Canada, two in Montreal, 1857 and 1882, and one in Toronto, in 1889. When the annual meeting is held in summer the attendance often exceeds one thousand. Only about 700 were present at the Chicago meeting just closed. The encouragement to specialists working alone in far separated colleges, laboratories and museums. A few social entertainments take place during the general meeting to enable men working on the same lines to make each other's personal acquaintance, and constitute one of the most pleasant features of these gatherings.

On registering his arrival, each member and fellow is supplied with a badge bearing just closed. This is accompanied by a list which is printed and extended every morning, and this supplies a means of identification and introduction of the members to one another without requiring a third person. Any properly recommended scientific man may become a member on payment of \$5 entrance fee and \$3 annually. After he has heard before the association papers which are considered of sufficient merit, he may be elected a fellow without any increase in the annual dues. Dr. Bell has held the rank of fellow for over twenty years. The papers accepted by the council are published each year in a volume called the Proceedings.

The association is intended primarily for the advancement of science and not for its mere diffusion, as if it were an education institution. The income exceeds the expenditure, and part of it is given out to aid original research. The association possesses a library, which is kept at the University of Cincinnati, and may be utilized by the members and fellows through the agency of the mails.

A Liberal Postmaster.

When Amos Kendall was postmaster-general at Washington, on the story goes, he wrote one day to the postmaster at a little station on the Tombigbee River: "You will please inform this department how far the Tombigbee river runs up" to which the postmaster answered "I have the honor to inform the department that the Tombigbee does not run up at all; it runs down." In due course of mail came another communication: "On receipt of this letter your appointment as postmaster will cease. Mr. [name] has been appointed your successor. To which went the following reply: "The receipts of this office during the last year have been \$4.37 and the office rent more than double that sum; please kindly instruct my successor to pay me the balance and oblige."—Argonaut.

Nine Australians recently sheared 2,394 sheep in nine hours