

tween nickel-steel targets and two kinds of projectiles, the Holtzer, weighing 250 pounds, and the Carpenter, weighing 850. A plate nine inches thick was penetrated by the Holtzer projectile, but did not crack, thereby passing the test for acceptance, but failing to win the premium of \$30 per ton in addition to the contract price. The feat of the Carpenter projectile, as described in the account before us, is well-nigh incredible, and if accurately reported may justify the boast in regard to projectiles. The Carpenter shell, fired with an initial velocity of 1858 feet a second, is said to have gone clear through not only the nickel-steel plate, seventeen inches in thickness, but also through thirty-six inches of oak backing and through the entire embankment, and then to have either plowed into the river hundreds of yards, or buried itself in the woods of a distant hillside. The plate did not crack and therefore stood the test for acceptance of contract, though it failed to win the premium for impenetrability. The experiments are of interest to Canada, establishing, as they probably do, the superior toughness of the nickel-steel plates. But the recent Victoria catastrophe suggests a grave doubt as to the utility of those very heavy armour plates. A vessel sheathed with metal plates seventeen inches in thickness would carry her crew to the bottom with terrible suddenness, should she receive a full-speed stroke from the ram of a Camperdown.

A recent number of the London Spectator suggests a change in the English School Law which would bring the educational system there into harmony with the theory which underlies that of Ontario. At the last annual meeting of the National Society, the Archbishop of Canterbury spoke hopefully of the future of Church schools, but several prominent laymen took a gloomier view of the outlook. There is a large standing deficit as the result of the operations of the past few years, and the most strenuous efforts have not done much to reduce it. The requirements of the Education Department for the Board or National schools in the way of accommodation and equipment become virtually obligatory on the Church and other denominational schools, but the Board Schools are provided for by general taxation, while the denominational schools have to depend on voluntary subscriptions. These subscriptions must be increased if the children are to be retained in the Church schools, but to increase them means to hamper other and equally important denominational undertakings. In view of these facts, the Spectator suggests that the various denominations which support voluntary schools, unite in an appeal to Parliament to place on the rates all schools that are efficiently maintained. Its argument amounts to this, that if all are supported by the community now, the amounts at

present levied in the way of voluntary subscriptions might as well be collected as compulsory rates and distributed among the schools. The reason is specious, but by no means convincing. The effect would be to establish permanently the vicious system of denominational schools supported by public funds, thus reversing the process which the new Act is designed to favour. As nearly all the voluntary schools are in reality Church schools, the scheme would be equivalent to endowment of these schools. To this the Nonconformists would most strenuously object. The fact that the system would be analagous to that in Ontario, in so far as the Catholic Separate Schools are concerned, would be its chief condemnation in the eyes of many of the most intelligent Canadians, Catholics, we believe, included. The denominational system—for such it is, so far as one Church is concerned—of Ontario is the result not of choice, but of compromise. The principle is embodied in the constitution, and must be observed; but were the people of Ontario now free to choose the system they deemed absolutely best, there can be little doubt that all state-aided denominational schools would go by the board.

Lynch law is but another name for mob murder. When it so happens that it can be proved by incontestable evidence that the victim was innocent of the crime imputed to him, the atrocity of the thing becomes more apparent and appalling, though the barbarousness of substituting vengeance for justice and the inflamed passions of a mob for the dispassionateness of a court of justice is scarcely greater. The prevalence of these mob murders in certain sections of the United States has long been the reproach of the nation and of American republicanism. Two recent cases, in which clear proof of the innocence of the victim has been brought to light, after the merciless instincts of the mob had done him to death in the cruel fashion in which such deeds are accomplished, may, it is to be hoped, set even the lynchers to thinking. One case is that of Robert Harper, the son of John Harper, who is said to be "a humble, honest negro." Robert was hanged by a mob at Bowling Green, Ky., on December 28th, on a charge of assault. The father has now published a pamphlet giving the whole story and testimony in the case, that which the mob had not time to hear, as well as that which was heard. The Independent says that it is enough to read the testimony of the person assaulted to see that it completely and absolutely exonerates Robert Harper from possible guilt; and it is substantiated by all the other evidence. Another case of a similar kind has very recently happened in Kentucky. The later reports agree that an alibi has been made good and that this victim, too, was innocent of the crime for which he was put to death. Some passions are, we suppose, less ignoble

than others, even when unrestrained, else it would be hard to make any distinction between the guilt of the real perpetrators of the crime which it is sought to avenge, and that of the would-be avengers. One would be disposed to feel pity for those who took part in the hangings, in view of the remorse and anguish which they might be disposed to feel on discovering that they had slain the innocent. But such sympathy would probably be wasted. Had the mobs desired specially either to do justice or to deter others from crime, they would have taken some pains to sift the evidence. Evidently their revengeful rage demanded a victim and was not to be balked of its indulgence by any little deficiencies in the proof. Yet the effect of the revelations upon the general public can hardly fail to be salutary in hastening the downfall of the revolting practice.

The controversy which has been raging for months over the question of the opening or closing of the World's Fair at Chicago on Sunday has had a remarkable denouement. The local Directory, who had proved impervious to all arguments derived from the religious sentiment of the country, the obligations laid upon them by the acceptance of the large sum voted by Congress on the express condition that the Fair should be closed on Sunday, and the silent protest of the States and nations which refused to open their buildings or display their machinery and other products on that day, was at last obliged to succumb to the strong logic of finance. The same mercenary influence which was all-powerful in the face of all those opposing forces, so long as they were persuaded that the Sunday receipts would be a source of profit, became irresistible on the other side as soon as the Directors became convinced, by actual experiment, that the Sunday opening was in reality a losing speculation. We ventured to suggest at an early stage of the discussion that it was possible that the loss resulting from the refusal of multitudes to attend if the fair were opened on Sunday, might more than counter-balance the gains to be derived from the entrance fees of those who would attend on that day but on no other. The result has justified the forecast to a far greater extent than we had supposed possible. Added to this was the further disappointment arising from the fact that the hundreds of thousands of working men who were supposed to be only waiting for the opening of the fair on Sunday, to crowd in with their entrance fees, failed to present themselves. In short, a few Sunday-opening experiments sufficed to make it clear that the sentiment of the country in favour of a seventh day of rest was far mightier than even the friends of Sunday closing could have anticipated. The result was that the same Directors who were so determined to have the Exposition open on Sunday, in spite of their obligations to Congress and the Christian