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## The Week,

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All articles, contributions, and letters on matters pertaining to the editorial department should be addressed to the Editor, and not to any other person who may be supposed to be connected with the paper.

ONE of the most noticeable features of the Session of the Ontario Teachers' Association, which was held last week in Toronto, was the tendency to a general consensus of opinion in favour of giving a more practical turn to the work done in the public and high schools. Strong ground was taken by Mr. Haultain, in a paper read near the beginning of the session, in support of the view that the present system fosters too much a preparation for purely intellectual pursuits, and not enough a preparation for industrial pursuits, thus tempting the better educated youth away from farming, lumbering, the fisheries, trades and manufactures, and enticing them into the so-called "learned professions." Mr. Haultain's paper called forth some vigorous hostile criticism, but this was probably due to misconception of some of the remedies he suggested, rather than hostility to the general view he advocated. When, for instance, he proposed to reduce the number of pupils in the high schools by increasing the fees he cut across the democratic predilections of most of the teachers. The people will no doubt agree with them in insisting that these secondary schools shall be preserved as the colleges of the poor, and that their advantages shall be brought within the reach of all classes. Not less intellectual culture but more is needed in all circles and in every branch of industry. The character of the education imparted may need some modification in order to counteract the tendencies complained of, but its extent must not be reduced. The practical problem is not to be solved by checking the aspirations of the hungry-minded and ambitious, but by judiciously directing their energies into right channels. We do not suppose that Mr. Haultain meant that boys and girls should be kept in ignorance in order that they may be kept in their places in the ranks of the toilers, but this seems to have been the idea gathered from some of his remarks, and resented by the assembled teachers. The interesting speeches of Mr. Shaw, the newly-appointed Professor at the Guelph Agricultural College, and Mr. Drury, Minister of Agriculture, indicated the direction in which the reform needed is to be sought. Intellectual culture must be associated and harmonized with manual labour. An impulse in the direction of agriculture and the useful arts must be imparted in the schools, instead of an impulse in the opposite direction. The latter, the Minister of Agriculture intimates, is now too

often the case. "I regret to state," he says, "that the young men who attend the high schools, collegiate institutes and universities seem to be imbued with the idea that labour with the hands is undignified and unbecoming to a gentleman. The result has been that those who have been looked forward to as the hope of the future of agriculture in this country have gone into other pursuits. . . . I have known many instances where, after farmers have had their sons educated in the high schools, they have refused to return to the farm." This is no doubt true, and the tendency is one which it will be hard to counteract, until such time as teachers shall have been found capable of inspiring their pupils with an enthusiasm for agricultural and other industrial pursuits. But let it not be supposed necessary or possible that farmers' sons shall in every instance remain on the farm, and mechanics' sons at the benches, and the learned professions be left as preserves for the children of the professional classes. Why should not a healthful circulation be kept up? Only, for every youth who leaves the country for professional and city life, some city-born lad should be returned to the country to till the soil. In a free country, with democratic institutions, there can be no such thing as hereditary occupations, or industrial as distinct from professional classes. This conception it was, no doubt, which the teachers were in unnecessary haste to repudiate.

REFERRING to the slight rise in the value of money, as indicated by the London Stock Exchange, and to the alleged probability of a still further advance during the year, the *Canadian Gazette* conceives that a striking testimony is thereby borne to the opportuneness of the recent issue made by the Canadian Government in advance of actual requirements. The argument is far from conclusive. It is impossible to forecast the value of money for any length of time in advance. The present rise may prove but temporary; in the not distant future the rates are quite as likely to go down as up. For aught that can be shown to the contrary Canada's chances of being able to borrow at low rates may be just as good a few years hence as now, possibly better. Even were it otherwise it would require a larger difference than yet obtains in the rates to recoup Canada for the heavy loss incurred in placing the present loan. A surer knowledge of the future than can possibly be had as yet by any financial prophet would be needed to justify the operation by which millions borrowed at three and a-half per cent. are re-loaned to foreign capitalists at one and a quarter.

RECENT cablegrams seem to indicate that a strong feeling hostile to the Quebec Conversion Scheme is being developed in financial circles in London. THE WEEK has on previous occasions pointed out the highly objectionable nature of that clause of the Act in which power is taken to compel the holders of Provincial securities to exchange them for the new debentures, or to accept the reduced rate of interest on the old. At the same time it should be remembered that the Act was passed in that shape only on the distinct assurance of the Government leaders to the effect that no creditor of the Province should be forced to make the exchange, or be defrauded of his just claims under the operation of the Bill. We know no reason to doubt that this declaration was made in good faith, and will be scrupulously observed. It would be extremely short-sighted—to say nothing of such considerations as honesty and honour—for the Quebec Government to take any other course. To force the holder of Provincial bonds either to exchange them for the new debentures, to surrender them at their face value, or to accept less than the stipulated rate of interest, would be, virtually, an act of repudiation. No patriotic or sensible Government could thus deliberately injure the reputation of the Province, and deprive it of all power to compete in the money markets of the world in the future, all for the sake of saving a few thousands of dollars of interest annually, for a limited term of years. There can surely be no doubt that Mr. Mercier and his colleagues intend to effect the conversion only on terms satisfactory in each case to the holders of the securities affected.

SUPPOSE, however, for argument's sake, that the Quebec Government is not so minded, but is resolved, notwithstanding its verbal pledge before the Legislature, to compel the acceptance of the new debentures by all the holders of Provincial bonds, it cannot be assumed that such bondholders