



Among the good things that have been instituted in the Province of Ontario is the Provincial Educational Association. The County Teachers' Associations have been effective in their way, but it is eminently desirable that a more direct avenue to the center of education, such as the Educational Association (which is continually broadening in scope) affords, shall be open to the men and women who hold the education of the Province in their hands. Provided with such meetings, the body of teachers may appeal directly to the Minister of the Department in regard to grievances; may present original ideas in regard to educational matters which are too broad to be disposed of in the local conventions; and may go home with the inspiration that comes of a new insight into the scope of a work which is pre-eminently the greatest and most far-reaching work that is being carried on to-day, forming, as it does, the foundation upon which all other work must be built. Upon the educationists, more than upon any other class, depends the future of our country. This is a fact that is too often overlooked.

At the recent meeting of the Association, in Toronto, spirited debates took place; on the plan to introduce military training in the schools; on the undue supervision and direction of High Schools by inspectors, to the taking away of the initiative and originality of the principals, and the lowering of the dignity of the profession; on the curriculum, and kindred subjects; and on the effect which may result from the extraordinary number of female teachers now in charge of schools.

In regard to the last subject, which was introduced by Mr. McKnight, of Owen Sound, the speaker said he thought it must be a cause for regret to every Canadian to find that the youth of the land were being trained by an army of girls, whose outstanding characteristics as teachers are youth and inexperience; whose average age does not exceed twenty years, and whose average experience was not more than six years. He thought, if the plans prevailing in some other countries, of giving a residence and garden to the teacher, and a higher salary, were adopted here, male teachers would be attracted to and retained in the teaching profession.

Ostensibly, the question is more pertinent to the rural than to the urban districts. In the majority of the cities men are engaged as principals, hence the boys, in their progress through the public school, are at all times subject to the influence of, and must spend the last year under the direct control of, men. In the country this condition does not obtain.

We should be glad to hear the opinion of our readers in regard to this or any educational subject. We feel that not only the teachers and trustees, but all of the people, should be interested in everything that bears upon education, and that those who are unable to attend such institutions as the Educational Association should have some medium for expression of opinion; hence, we are glad to throw open the pages of our paper as such a medium.

The subject is a broad one, requiring deep and deliberate thought, and holding no place for superficial or prejudiced opinion. Educational influences must be followed right down to their effect on character—the aim of all true education. Such thought

we require of our correspondents, and such thought we feel sure they can supply.

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The writer of the interesting series, "The Woman's Invasion," now current in Everybody's Magazine, pertinently remarks: "If industrial labor ever becomes thoroughly what it might be—temperate in daily duration, wholesome in physical reaction, not unworthy (for body and for spirit) of the briskest, finest daylight hours of human lives,—we shall owe this, our completed humanization, to many causes; but among them will be the industrial presence of woman, of her along whose path, wherever she may move, some imperfect recollections of Paradise, for the perpetual preservation of mankind, must come following. We have a choice between two things. First: Debar women from industry; second, make industry fit for women. At present we do neither."

The writer was referring, of course, to woman as a factor of city industrial life, in factories, and stores, and telephone offices; but may not the question of woman in the rural life be included? The day has, perhaps, passed in which the farm woman was expected to raise a family of children, keep them clad and fed, and do duty as extra man in field and barn, beside; but even yet, in many homes in the rural districts, the wife and mother is little better than a slave to incessant toil. It is not enough that she shall clean and cook for a family—mother, cook, laundress, seamstress and baker in one—she must also be gardener, dairymaid, poultry-keeper, and even swineherd. It is no uncommon sight, on driving through the country, to see women dragging along with heavy pails of food towards a pigpen. Surely such toil, carried on day after day, year after year, is neither "temperate," "wholesome in physical reaction," nor worthy of the period which should be the brightest and best portion of human life. Woman is not constitutionally fitted for such a life. Overdoing on her part cannot but react harmfully in the weakening of her progeny, as well as of herself; and the man who is so poor that he cannot but lay such a share of work on his wife's shoulders, should not marry. A certain amount of physical exertion is valuable for either man or woman, but the balance must be preserved, if industrial labor, in town or country, is ever to become thoroughly "what it might be," or what it ought to be.

A Russell Co. Opinion on Local Option.

Articles have been appearing in your recent issues in regard to local option. As a general rule, those giving information as to the validity of local option, usually approve of the system. Sometimes we hear the statement, "There is more liquor drunk in such a place than before local option came into force," but such statements can be best judged by the source from which they spring. If this is true, why do we always find the liquor advocates enlisted in the campaign against local option?

On our city market we have an inspector employed to prevent anything of inferior quality being offered, and sometimes articles are confiscated which would be less harmful to the consumer than the liquor he can have access to just when he

pleases. When Mr. Farmer goes to the city market, he is not allowed to offer produce there if it falls below the market standard. In the same city, Mr. Farmer can meet a man so much under the influence of liquor that he is not capable of taking care of himself. Is the law equal in this respect?

Then, we have inspectors sent out to inspect the local dairies that supply milk to the city, that as pure a quality of milk as possible may be procured; use all precautions possible as to the milk supply, and still allow the liquor to play havoc with the consumers!

We have often read in the agricultural press about raising the standard of Canadian cheese. The general cry is, "Raise the standard of Canadian cheese; give our brethren across the waters a good article." So be it. But how about the liquor traffic over there? Any person who will take the trouble to investigate the statistics of the liquor consumption of England, is well aware that liquor is used more than would be necessary for medical purposes.

Should we not recognize that we are our brother's keeper, and, for the sake of those who have overtaken the fault of indulging in the use of intoxicating liquors, try to establish the local-option by-law in every part of our Province? The three-fifth clause is a handicap to the passing of this by-law in many places, but should not be, as there should be three-fifths of the people in any locality opposed to a traffic that is as injurious as is the liquor traffic. Wishing your paper all success, I hope we may hear from Sandy Fraser on this important subject.

J. W. SMILEY.

Russell Co., Ont.

Local Option Not a Failure.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Having read, from time to time, in your valuable paper letters re the temperance question, I would like to give my opinion of local option. Living about thirteen miles from Owen Sound, I have watched with interest during the past three years the workings of and the effect that the by-law has had on that town. When the measure was first proposed, and after it had carried, of course, there was great opposition to it, and a great many wiseacres predicted that the town would go to the dogs. Now, although some people still persist in saying that the town is being ruined, I don't think any fair-minded person would say that he cannot get as good a bargain there as he could before the by-law was put into force. Now, does it not stand to reason that people have to buy and sell? And are they going to stay at home to do it? I know for certain that there is not a farmer around that used the town three years ago to market his produce in, that will make a practice of going elsewhere for a market to-day. Of course, some say, "Well, it is the county-town, and one of the chief ports on the Georgian Bay, and there is more scope for market purposes, and it is those conditions that make it superior as a market. Agreed; that is all very true, but anti-local-optionists cried, "It will kill the town." Has it done so? I say no, and it never will. I inquired of two of the leading business men of the town one day how they found business under the present conditions. One replied,

"Better," and the other that, although there was not much difference in the general business, yet their cash business was decidedly better; some months they would take in as much as one hundred dollars more than they did in corresponding months when there were licenses.

Then, again, the opposition say that there is more drinking now than formerly. Now, I admit that occasionally there may be seen an intoxicated man on the street, but every one that is seen now is more noticeable than formerly. I think I may safely say that, instead of being the rule, it is an exception to the rule, to see a drunken man. I know that liquor is sold, but to say that it is sold in larger quantities than formerly is an absurdity, or why do the hotelkeepers keep clamoring for their licenses? For surely, if they sell more without a license than with one, they must be making more money, and that is what they are after.

Last January, and the January previous, there appeared in one of the leading papers an open letter, signed by the mayor, and a petition signed by some of the leading business men of the town, saying what a curse local option was, and that the town was like a house divided against itself. Now, not one of these men is engaged in supplying the working man with his weekly necessities, such as groceries and meat, and there was not the name of a dry-goods merchant on it, so how were they to know how it affected the necessary weekly expenditures? They were mostly wholesale merchants, that did the volume of their business outside the town, or else by large contracts.

Then, there was, and still is, the cry about accommodation. Of course, at first the hotelkeepers threatened to close up their stables, and lots of farmers believed they would do it; but, although the price for stabling is somewhat higher, I don't think anybody has been "broken" by it, but some begrudge five or ten cents extra for stabling, but would not think anything of spending a dollar for drink. For my part, I can always get all the stabling I want when I go to town, unless, of course, it is on some special day, such as Fair day, but those days used to come before. Anybody can get as good a meal at the temperance hotel for 25 cents as anywhere else for the same money, and I am told that the sleeping and boarding accommodation is excellent. Then, there are the restaurants; anybody can get a good meal there too. Some say, "Well, we have no place to warm ourselves, unless it is around some store stove." My answer is, get your business done and go home; it won't hurt you to be home a couple of hours sooner than you used to be. I think, when all the talk about the town going to the dogs is reckoned up, the only business that suffers is the liquor business; and the more it suffers, the better.

T. W. BALLARD.

Grey Co., Ont.

People, Books and Doings.

The average age of the men composing the Taft Cabinet is fifty-seven years.

The surviving members of the first Canadian Parliament were tendered a banquet in the Parliament restaurant, in Ottawa, last week.

Du Maurier's play, "An English-