

Report of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The annual report of the Hon. Boucher de la Bruere, superintendent of Public Instruction for the Province of Quebec, just issued, vies with any of its predecessors in point, both of interest and suggestiveness to those who have at heart the education of our people. What strikes the reader on opening the volume, at the initial pages, is the list of the members of the two councils—Catholic and Protestant—to which the thoughtful reader of events in educational affairs furnishes a striking lesson. The generosity and toleration here evidenced are probably unparalleled in any other province or state or nation in the world.

After paying a well-merited tribute to the late Abbe Verreault, principal of the Jacques Cartier Normal School, Montreal, and fittingly complimenting his successor the Abbe Nazaire Dubois, D.D., the superintendent notes the fact that he attended the triennial meeting of the Educational Association of Canada, held last year under the presidency of Dr. McCabe. Among the propositions approved were three—namely, one favoring anti-alcoholic teaching in schools; one advocating the establishment of circulating libraries; and one aimed at making the metric system compulsory in Canada; while a resolution having for its object the formation of a League of Sons and Daughters of the Empire, with an educational programme, was rejected.

The Catholic Committee of the Council, desirous of having lectures given for the benefit of the female lay teachers not having had the advantage of following a Normal School course, decided in May last to try the experiment of organizing lectures which were to be delivered during the course of the summer vacation to the female teachers in the district of Montreal. The kind offer by His Grace Archbishop Bruchesi to receive in a Montreal convent the female lay teachers who wished to attend these lectures, greatly facilitated the realization of the desire of the Catholic Committee. It was accordingly decided that the lectures should be organized by the superintendent, and that they should take place at the Mont Ste. Marie Convent, graciously offered for the purpose by the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame, the amount required to pay the board of the female teachers being taken from the funds at the disposal of the committee. The government gave its approval, and the lectures took place in August last, and were a gratifying success. His Grace Archbishop Bruchesi being present at the twelve lectures given. No fewer than 530 teachers attended the lectures, which will doubtless be productive of excellent results. Conventions similar to that held in Montreal will also take place in several of the rural districts; and it is to be hoped that that which was held in Mont Ste. Marie Convent will not be the first and last organized in Montreal.

The attendance at the schools throughout the province during the year dealt with by the report was satisfactory considering the obstacles, noted in the "True Witness" a few years ago, encountered by children living in rural and sparsely-populated portions of the country. The superintendent states that improvements have taken place in school construction and in the establishment of school libraries in recent years, and he repeats his recommendation to the legislature to increase the salaries of inspectors. He might also have recommended an increase in the salaries paid to teachers, which, although they show some improvement within the past few years, are still inadequate and far below the average salaries paid to teachers in Ontario.

We heartily endorse the following suggestion made by the superintendent in a report made by him to the Legislature in December, 1897, and reiterated in the present report: "I beg to call the attention of the Legislature to the establishment of schools which might benefit the working classes in our cities and towns. On leaving the elementary school the child who is destined for a liberal profession has the advantage of going to a classical college the future merchant can attend our commercial academies or colleges; the farmers' son can complete his farm education in one of our agricultural schools. But the working-man's son has no special school, where he can learn the theory and practice of the trade that he wishes

to follow. He enters upon his apprenticeship without acquiring the knowledge that he needs in order to become a skilful foreman or a master mechanic. It would therefore, be a great improvement to found industrial schools for boys in Montreal and in Quebec or in some other large manufacturing centre."

The statistics regarding elementary schools in the province show that the number of schools under the control of the commissioners is 4,226, as compared with 4,147 the previous year, the schools controlled by trustees having decreased in number from 113 to 96. The number of Catholic pupils in schools under the commissioners is 169,068, and in independent schools 4,877, against 166,276 and 4,824 respectively. The total number of Protestant pupils in elementary schools has decreased from 25,411 to 24,319 the previous year.

Housing the Poor of Scotland.

The complete returns of the census for 1901 in Scotland which have been published indicate only too clearly that the exodus from the country districts into the large cities is still greatly on the increase. As a consequence, on this side of the Tweed, as in London and Birmingham, there is in progress a movement which has for its ultimate object the reduction, if not the entire removal, of those slums which are not only the haunts of crime, misery, and vice, but, as two outbreaks both of bubonic plague and of smallpox within one year in Glasgow alone have demonstrated, are the breeding-grounds of disastrous epidemics. In Scotland, as in England, enthusiasts are dreaming of "garden cities" and, like Mr. H. G. Wells, of workmen in the great centres of population being conveyed speedily and lightly into the country "by twopenny tube," motor-car, or that "mono-rail" which is already seriously suggested as a means of bringing Edinburgh and Glasgow within twenty-five minutes of each other.

Taking advantage of the large powers conferred upon them, most Scottish city corporations have scheduled unsanitary dwellings in specific areas, have purchased and demolished them, and sold the sites for other purposes. While the inhabitants of these areas have been evicted, the provision of other and cheap houses for them is a problem which the corporations have tried to solve either directly or indirectly through partially regulated enterprise. Glasgow, as the largest city in Scotland, supplies the best illustration of what is being done and of what can be done. There the corporation acts through a body of its own appointment known as the Improvement Trust Committee, which acquires lands for building purposes and erects houses and shops. Thus, on one set of lands alone, 46 blocks of buildings have been constructed. These include 200 shops and 1,455 dwelling houses, among the latter being 402 one-apartment houses, 150 three-apartment houses, and eleven houses of larger size. The minimum rents charged for the one-apartment houses is £4 10s., for the two-apartment houses £6 16s., and for the three-apartment houses £12 9s., while the maximum rents are £8, £14, and £21 respectively. As a result of the general work of the Trust in destroying bad houses and erecting good ones, the death rate over the city, which in 1876 was 27.4 per 1,000, is now 21.1; and in the central district, which is the least sanitary, the rate has been reduced from 40 to 30. There is really, however, no end to the labors of any corporation which seeks to solve its own housing problem in its own way. The census returns now issued show the exact position of the city. In 1891 houses in Glasgow had an average of 2,325 rooms and 4,727 persons, or 2,038 persons per room. At the census of 1901, when the city had been largely extended by annexation, the houses had an average of 2,562 rooms and 4,778 persons, or only 1,865 persons per room. There are 32,709 houses of one apartment each in which live 104,128 persons, or 3,183 per room. There are 70,784 houses of two apartments each, in which are housed 348,731 persons, or 4,927 per house and 2,463 per room. There are 28,055 houses of three apartments each, in which are housed 151,754 persons, or 5,409 per house and 1,803 per room. In short, nearly one-half of the population live in houses of two apartments. In 1891 there were 81,082 houses of one apartment, and in the same area there are now only 30,436 such houses. In spite of this improvement there is still decided overcrowding. The census returns show that, although the number of inhabited

houses is 155,404, the number of families is 163,422. It follows from this that many houses must shelter more than one family, and, of course, a two-roomed house containing two families is not necessarily more sanitary than two single-roomed houses.

On July 30 of the present year a very large number of dwelling houses—probably between 1,000 and 2,000—will be closed under the Glasgow Building Regulation Act of 1900, a part altogether from 160 other houses which may be closed from dampness and want of ventilation and other sanitary conditions under the Police Act of 1890. As a consequence, the corporation have come to the decision to apply to Parliament for fresh powers to acquire by agreement—and at a cost of £750,000—land for building purposes, and have announced their intention of erecting some 3,600 houses similar to those built by the Improvement Trust Committee since its establishment. This announcement has given impulse to a local agitation for further inquiry and action, which is certain to increase in volume as the time for obtaining the necessary Parliamentary powers draws near. In the first place, it is pointed out that the corporation is essaying at least one task which it ought not to undertake, and which it will fail in, even were it justified in making the attempt. Sir Robert Giffen has in a letter put the matter thus:—

"As yet, although the Glasgow Corporation have invested a good deal of money, they have not housed more than 10,000 families. If they are to make a great impression on the housing of the poor, they will have to accommodate in the end probably 100,000 families, if not more, involving ten times the expenditure already incurred. All the while private trade will be hampered and the corporation will have become the chief employer of labor and the chief landlord in Glasgow, which are not undesirable positions for the corporation to hold.—London Times.

Local Government In Ireland.

We are now on the eve of the county and district elections, says the "Leinster Leader." It is, therefore, the duty of the electors to at once make up their minds as to the policy which shall influence their choice of representatives. The course which the interests of the country and the interests of the local ratepayers dictate is plain and simple. The men who courageously took upon themselves the difficult and responsible task of initiating a new and complicated system of administration, have done their work efficiently and well. Should they if willing to continue in office, be told to stand aside? Common sense as well as gratitude answers this question with an emphatic "No." We hope that no man will be thoughtless enough to increase the existing burdens on the struggling taxpayers by forcing an unnecessary contest in either county, rural or urban division; and we trust that the ratepayers—mindful of the good work done during the past three years—will refuse to further tax themselves for the benefits of individuals or cliques who unworthily aspire to oust from the public service men of proved zeal and capacity.

There may and will be cases in which a change is inevitable. Vacancies will arise in various places from various causes. What considerations shall determine the people's choice in these instances? Primarily—real capacity for the duties. Let the important fact be not overlooked that the efficiency of the new local administration will be eventually the greatest—the irresistible argument for Home Rule. The past three years have immensely strengthened the Nationalist case. The practical ability displayed by the people's chosen representatives—their shrewdness, their business insight and keenness—have knocked the bottom out of Unionist fallacies. Such a demonstration of self-governing fitness is worth sheaves of resolutions and centuries of speech-making. This proud record must be maintained. The results of every election must add to, not take from, the cumulative argument establishing beyond year or nay our genius for self-government. We want on our local councils not men who can merely marshal "unalterable convictions" in polysyllabic phraseology, and defy governments on county and district stationery. We do not want men who will spend the ratepayers' time in idle discussion. We require hard-headed business men such as we have on the present boards—men who will be keen critics of the expenditure of the rates, who will jealously examine every figure in the estimate, who will be penny-wise without sacrificing "the sheep" for the "ha'porth of tar," and who will transact the public business in the minimum space of time.

POOR DIGESTION

RENDERS THE LIFE OF THE DYSPYPTIC PEPTIC MISERABLE.

Food Becomes Distasteful and a Feeling of Weariness, Pain and Depression Ensues.

From Le Sorelois, Sore., Que.

Of the diseases afflicting mankind dyspepsia is one of the worst to endure. Its victims find life almost a burden. Food becomes distasteful; they suffer from severe pains in the stomach; sometimes excessive heart palpitation, and a general feeling of weakness and depression. Though this disease is one of the most distressing, it is one which, if the proper remedy is employed, can be readily cured. Thousands throughout this country bear testimony to the efficacy of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills as a never failing cure. Among them is Mrs. Adolphe A. Latrousse, a well known and highly esteemed lady residing at Sorel, Que. She says:—

"For two years I was a constant sufferer from bad digestion and its accompanying symptoms. Food became distasteful and I grew very weak. I suffered much from pains in the stomach and head. I could not obtain restful sleep and became unfit for all household work. I tried several medicines without finding the least relief, and I continually grew worse until in the end I would vomit everything I ate. I had almost given up hope of ever being well again when one day I read of a case similar to mine cured through the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. I determined to give these pills a trial, and am happy to-day that I did so, as by the time I had taken eight or nine boxes my strength had returned, the pains which had so long racked me disappeared, my stomach would digest food properly and I had fully regained my old time health, and have not since had any return of the trouble."

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are a purely tonic medicine and unlike all purgatives do not weaken the system, but give life and energy with every dose. They are a certain cure for anaemia, dizziness, heart troubles, rheumatism, sciatica, indigestion, partial paralysis, St. Vitus' dance and the functional ailments that make the lives of so many women an almost constant source of misery. Sold by dealers in medicine, or sent post paid at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50 by addressing the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

American Business Men

Early at Work.

The fathers of the present generation of New York business men might well be surprised at the early hours of their sons. The business day in the financial and commercial part of the city below Canal street has been lengthened, not by the clerical forces alone, but by the bosses.

Nine o'clock used to be the opening hour in many of the offices; stores are not under consideration. The hour now is 8 and in some of the very busy side streets it is earlier.

A few evenings ago when the head of a great business house in Duane street was asked when he could meet the next day the man who made the inquiry, he replied:—

"I'll be at my desk at 7.30 in the morning."

The inquirer replied that he need not hurry to get down so early.

"That's my regular hour," replied the Duane street man. "I am there at that time six days in the week."

"What time do you get up?" he was asked.

"About 5.30. I live in East Ninety, and I have to turn out early to get here. And I am in bed every night at 10 sharp."

The Duane street man is in a business in which quotations from European markets are important to his other houses in the West, and he is getting the figures on the wires while others sleep.

The vice-president of a Wall street bank is at his desk at 8.30 every weekday. The other morning he got in and found an unusually large mail. He became interested in it

Local Government In Ireland.

and after he had been at his work for an hour it occurred to him that he had not removed his top coat or silk hat.

The President of a Broadway bank, not far from the shadow of Trinity's spire, reaches his desk promptly at 9 in the morning. He lives up near Hackensack. In order to be at his bank at the hour mentioned he has to turn out at 6 o'clock.

When he reaches the bank he finds his son awaiting him. The son lives in Manhattan, up in the Eighties. He has to hustle to get down before the "Governor."

A few nights ago a lawyer in Nassau street met a friend at the theatre. A business engagement for the following morning was made at 8 sharp. This was not an exception. It is the hour at which the lawyer opens his desk. He lives up in the Sixties.

The representative of one of the greatest financiers in the world lives up the Hudson. He comes in six days in the week on the train that leaves his home station at 7 o'clock. He is in Wall street before 9, having stopped at another branch of his business on the way down.

The foregoing are only a few instances of early business downtown. The men referred to are not in the class of laborers and clerks. They are heads of concerns and handle great transactions. And it does not seem to be a killing pace. One of them, in speaking of it, said:—

"I used to get down at 9 or 9.30, and it was 10 before I got under headway. The day was gone before I was half through."

"Getting to work at 8 or 8.30 in the morning is the greatest help I know. Besides, it gets me into the morning air. That invigorates and by the time I get to my office I have had the early sunshine. I have heard the birds sing. I have met many who are in the glow of health, and all tend to inspire me."

Of course, most of those who observe these early hours of business quit at 5 in the afternoon, and in the summer months earlier. — New York Sun.

The American Beef Trust.

The fight against the American Beef Trust continues with unabated vigor. The New York "Herald" says:—

When the managers of the Beef Trust houses in New York met on Saturday last, according to their weekly custom, to discuss trade conditions and to decide upon the prices which the dealers and consumers must pay at the opening of the markets on Monday morning they faced a critical accumulation of problems, almost without precedent.

By all the natural laws of supply and demand which control a legitimate industry there should be a notable decrease in the prices of beef at the present time. The reasons alleged for the long continued and prohibitive series of advances have been shattered by the recent uprising of the public and the government and by the machinery of the Beef Trust itself.

Because of the loss of custom the supply of beef on the hoof and in the refrigerator cars and cold storage houses of the Trust is to-day greatly in excess of the demand. The elaborate system devised to create and maintain an artificial scarcity has been thrown out of gear, and the combination can no longer predict with certainty what prices can be ordered a month ahead.

The system is being overhauled to meet new conditions, but that the power of the Beef Trust is only checked, and not broken, is shown by the results of the managers' meeting in New York.

It was decided to use every effort to keep beef prices at the level of the last two weeks, but not to work for any more money.

For two days following the crash in the Chicago cattle market last week, when ten thousand head went begging for buyers in one day of stockyard trade, and prices fell off fifty cents a hundred weight without warning, the New York wholesale market got away from the strangling grip of the Beef Trust, and there was a slight breathing spell for the consumers. Immediately, however, orders flooded the wires to cut out the shipments already booked for the Atlantic seaboard, to leave the cars already on the way unloaded in the freight yards and to hold back the live cattle far away on the ranges and in the pens of the stockyards of Chicago, Kansas City, Omaha and St. Joseph. The Western commission men, who are wholly dependent on the Trust for their cattle, made frantic efforts to assist in

keeping the live stock off the market.

No more convincing exposure of the Beef Trust system could be devised than this chain of operations, reaching from the ranch in the far West to the table of the consumer in New York, with the one desperate purpose of squeezing down supply in order to keep prices at an abnormal level, reached through a colossal series of manipulations, which finally overreached themselves.

It happens, therefore, that beef will be no cheaper in New York this week than last, if the Trust is able to control the situation, because a number of men, with offices in Chicago, have been able to hold back a vast amount of meat, which the people of this city are willing and anxious to buy at fair prices and still leave a handsome profit for the Trust.

In the opinion of dealers who have been in the business for many years, there should be an immediate decrease on the cost of beef of one cent a pound to the wholesale buyer and three cents a pound to the consumer. A difference of one cent a pound on fresh meats means a total difference in one week of \$120,000 in the cost of feeding the population of this city.

A prominent wholesale dealer said recently:—

"There is no reason, except the arbitrary action of the Beef Trust, why beef should not be cheaper than a month ago. But there is no relief, and it follows inevitably that the prices fixed by the Beef Trust do not depend upon the ratio of supply and demand, and that the system is founded on nothing else than arbitrary dictation."

With Our Subscribers.

A Rev. Pastor writes:—"I herewith enclose my annual subscription to your valuable weekly, and same time allow me to express my just appreciation of its merits. I note with pleasure the rapid advance it is making. No Catholic family should be without it. I always look forward to its reception with pleasure."

Mr. H. C., of the Upper Ottawa district, a subscriber since the first publication of the "True Witness," called at our office on Tuesday morning. In reply to a question as to his age, he stated that he had celebrated his 81st birthday a few months ago. Our staunch old friend seems to wear his years well, and from his vigorous appearance bids fair to attain the centenary stage. Mr. H. C. takes an active interest in all matters appertaining to religion. One of his daughters is a member of a well known religious community.

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The virtue of one dose is so small you can't see any change. But add together all the little virtues from all the little doses and the effect is very marked.

In consumption, as in other cases, the results secured from continued treatment with Scott's Emulsion come from the accumulation of many small gains. A little gain in strength each day—a little gain in weight each day—if continued for weeks, amounts to something.

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CATHOLIC LITERATURE IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Under the direction of the Catholic Alumni Society, the shelves of the Boston public library have been carefully overhauled and a complete catalogue made of the literature of Catholic life included in the contents or added thereto.

AIN PRAYER.—The "me" refers to this class as follows:—endless follies in the "endless" and is being circulated from hand to hand, bugs all kinds of copy it a certain and find an equal people to do the prayer comes from o say. The prayer been at least original shape, but copied by all has become incoherent. If our prayers, there are prayers in their all their needs. Prayer-book are apur and many of gences attached. The sacraments, esoly Communion, purified our souls, dence, ask God for ourselves or our emands then will Christ within us. powerful form of e frequently and ch foolish things ain" prayer.

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