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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.

A DEPUTATION from the Dominion Trades and Labour Congress informed the Ontario Minister of Education the other day that labour organizations view with distrust the introduction of manual training into the Public Schools. The workmen of Canada will make a grievous mistake if they allow themselves to be persuaded to oppose this great educational reform. With just as much reason might clerks, book-keepers, professional men, and, in fact, all whose callings require a certain amount of intellectual training, organize themselves into guilds and protest against the teaching of reading, writing, and arithmetic in the schools. They might dwell upon the injustice of being compelled to pay taxes for the purpose of training up boys and young men by the thousand to become their future competitors in the various branches of mental industry. The one argument would be just as good as the other. It must be that the deputation and those whom they represent quite misapprehend the kind and scope of the manual training proposed to be given in the schools. To train a boy's hands, and eyes, and brains by means of the tools and other appliances of the workshop and laboratory is no more to teach him a trade than to train certain other faculties of reasoning and reflection and judgment by means of book and pen and pencil is to teach him a profession. The true aim of education is to develop *pari passu* all the faculties of body and mind that the future man may have full control of all. To this end the cultivation of the hands and the perceptive powers, hitherto so much neglected, is just as essential as the cultivation of what we are accustomed to call the higher faculties. The wonder is that modern intelligence has been so slow to recognize the truth.

BY their attitude in regard to prison labour also, the workmen are standing in their own light, as well as opposing the true interests of society and the State. No one is more benefited than the labouring man by whatever helps to prevent crime, to lessen taxation, to increase productive industry, and to promote the moral well-being of the community. That the tendency of a

judicious system of prison labour is to do all these things will not be questioned by any one who has given intelligent attention to the subject. Such a system is one of the most efficient and indispensable means of accomplishing the higher ends of all prison discipline, whether those ends be regarded as punitive, preventive, or reformatory. Statistics show that the evil of competition which the workmen so greatly dread is little more than a bugbear. Mr. Brockway, in the December *Forum*, asserts, presumably not without good authority, that the output of prison manufactures has never anywhere exceeded one-fifth of one per cent. of the mechanical products of free labour, a mere bagatelle to be put in the balance against all the benefits that would accrue to the individual and the State from a proper use of the beneficent agency of productive labour in the prisons and penitentiaries. With the growth of democracy the balance of power is gradually passing into the hands of the workingman. Great will be the disastrous results to society and the State if he fails to keep the apparent interests of himself and his class far enough away from his eye to enable him to take in those broader views and relations, the intelligent comprehension of which is essential to enlightened Government. We say "apparent interests" because it is at least doubtful whether the cost of maintaining convicts in idleness is not a heavier tax on the workingman's resources than any that their competition in labour could possibly inflict.

THE condition of the insane asylums in the Province of Quebec, as brought to light by the recent Report of the Royal Commission appointed by the Local Government is a reproach to the Province and to Canada. The very fact that these institutions are in the hands of private proprietors is, of itself, sufficient to stamp the system as wholly behind the time. No modern Government can acquit itself of gross neglect of duty so long as it hands over the care of the lunatics, imbeciles, idiots and other unfortunates unable to take care of themselves, to the tender mercies of any private institution whose managers, however worthy their aims, can give no guarantee that they possess the special knowledge and skill requisite for the most approved scientific treatment of their patients, and whose proprietors will have, necessarily, a pecuniary interest in keeping down expenses, and in lengthening, rather than shortening, the periods of confinement. The results of such a system, as described in the Report, are only what were to have been expected. There is, it appears, no attempt at a proper classification of inmates, or at a scientific regimen, or even at a uniform system of management and restraint. Over-crowding, bad ventilation, the lack of precautions for saving life, etc., are observable throughout. Worst of all is the almost complete absence of that which one would naturally expect to find provided first with especial care,—professional skill and appliances for sanitative and curative treatment of patients. The proprietors, it is said, refuse to recognize the medical boards appointed by the Government, and will not even permit individual members of those boards to inspect their establishments. The sooner the Quebec Government makes a radical change in the whole system, so as to secure for those mentally diseased the benefit of the best professional treatment of the day, the better will it vindicate the reputation of the Province for intelligence and humanity.

THE announcement, made by President Cleveland in his last Address to Congress, that steps have been taken for the assemblage at Washington during the coming year of the representatives of the South and Central American States, together with those of Mexico, Hayti and San Domingo, to discuss sundry important monetary and commercial topics, has considerable interest for Canadians. It is, to say the least, unfortunate that Canada should be debarred by circumstances from having a voice in such deliberations, and the question naturally suggests itself whether some proper means may not be found to remove the formal obstacles which prevent her from doing so. The nature of these obstacles is easily understood. The United States initiate the movement, and, naturally enough in view of the special objects aimed at, confine invitations to American States. International etiquette forbids the opening of any communication with Canada

save through Great Britain, which, as a European State, can have no place or representation in the Conference. It might be worthy of consideration whether the Canadian Government should not, under the peculiar circumstances, ask permission and authority, which would probably be granted, to take a place in the Conference as an independent State for this special occasion and purpose. This would, of course, involve her right for the time being, and within the limits of the Conference, to make and ratify a commercial agreement or treaty in her own name. Insuperable objections might, perhaps, arise, but such scarcely appear on the surface. Canada's position in the case is, it must be confessed, somewhat humiliating, and it may further be the occasion to her of the loss of important commercial advantages.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND'S annual message to Congress loses much of the importance that should belong to the pronouncement of the Chief Magistrate of a nation of sixty millions, from the fact that he is not only a defeated candidate for re-election, but is without the support of the requisite majority in the Senate to ensure the adoption of any measures he may now recommend. It is owing to this state of affairs, no doubt, that his lengthy message is made up so largely of general report and argument, and proposes so little of definite legislation or action. His views upon the tariff and other matters, in regard to which he expresses himself strongly, do not carry even the weight that would belong to them were it certain that he speaks as the leader of the Democratic party during the coming four-years campaign. The *Chicago Tribune* claims to have discovered a "general feeling" that it would be unbecoming, and even improper, for one who has swayed the sceptre of the great Republic "to afterwards enter into business competition with any of his fellow-citizens." We do not know whether this feeling would likewise debar him from the position of recognized leader of his party and framer of its general policy in opposition. But it is doubtful whether the party will be willing to further trust to the leadership of one who has led it to defeat from the high vantage ground of the Presidency. It would not be surprising should the Democrats prefer to try a new leader and a modified policy. This uncertainty deprives the President's vigorous arraignment of the fiscal policy of the nation, which forms the strongest paragraph in the message, of most of its force and significance.

THE part of the message which touches upon the Fisheries dispute has, naturally, a special interest for Canadians. The references to this subject involve the same inconsistency that has cast so sinister a shadow upon President Cleveland's course in regard to it during the last months. He "continues to be of opinion that the treaty of February last, which failed to receive the approval of the Senate, did supply a satisfactory, practical and final adjustment, upon a basis honourable and just to both parties, of the difficult and vexed question to which it related," and still seems to be unconscious of any incongruity between that opinion and "certain recommendations for legislation concerning the important questions involved," which he submitted to Congress on the rejection of the treaty. This was, we suppose, to be expected. The President could hardly afford to confess, even tacitly, that these recommendations were mere buncombe, a bit of petty party strategy. He does well, however, to invoke the earnest and immediate attention of Congress to the present unsatisfactory condition of the question, and he is undoubtedly right in intimating that there is nothing in this or any other subject of dispute between Great Britain and the United States "that is not susceptible of satisfactory adjustment by frank diplomatic treatment."

TWO other matters touched upon which are of special interest to Canadians are the Behring Sea Seal fisheries and international aid to vessels in distress on the Lakes. In regard to the first, President Cleveland hopes to be enabled soon "to submit an effective and satisfactory conventional project with the Maritime Powers for the approval of the Senate." Some international arrangement to prevent the fur-bearing seals in those waters from extermination is, no doubt desirable, and any reasonable convention which bids fair to accomplish that object, and at