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impairment that would have condemned the Marvins such evidence. The Captain of the Rush when he seized the Marvins was reported to have said, when explanations were offered with respect to the cartridges, that he was not holding a court of inquiry. Surely he was expected to make some inquiries before he seized a vessel? Common sense and common fairness revolt at the idea of a man in his position subjecting the owners and the crew to very serious loss and inconvenience on a mere suspicion. The hole in the skin—even if it were a shot hole, which seems to be more than doubtful—is no proof that the seal was killed by the shot or that the crew of the Marvins used firearms when hunting seals. The presumption was all the other way. Captain Byers, though it appears he was not required by the provisions of the Award to do so, presented the arms and ammunition he had on board to the collector at Copper Island to be sealed and counted. This was not the act of a man who intended to use firearms surreptitiously. But it was the act of a man who wanted to go into Behring Sea with his vessel and her equipment in such a condition that the most suspicious and exacting of patrol officers should have no cause to find fault with him or to interfere with him in his voyage. The action of the authorities with regard to the Marvins was prompt. No favor was shown her captain or her owners. She was proceeded against in the way that the law directs, and there cannot be the slightest doubt that if the evidence had shown that her captain or crew had been guilty of any offence against the Paris Award the condemnation would have been as severe as the law directs.

BOODLING IN FRANCE.

It seems that one of the arts cultivated of late years in France is the art of boodling. The Panama Canal revelations showed that great advances had been made in the art by men of different degrees, in the Legislature and out of the Legislature. The shameless and cruel way in which the people were robbed by those who undertook to boom that project will ever be a disgrace to France. The railway scandal that caused the collapse of the late Government has been little less disgraceful. It appears that a good many of the boodlers were too powerful or knew too much for the Government to proceed against them. The majority of the Chamber of Deputies, suspecting this, were incensed, and with hardly a word of warning overthrew the Government.

Many years ago the people of France were, as far as railway accommodation was concerned, at the mercy of six great companies. These formed an immense monopoly, charged what they pleased, and treated the public in the ways that best suited their convenience. The people naturally resented this, and prevailed upon the Government to go into the business of building and operating railways. Times becoming hard and trade depressing, the new roads, under Government management, did not pay. The old companies bought up a number of them, and after getting possession allowed them to go into disuse.

In 1883 the Government inaugurated a new railway policy. It entered into an agreement with the companies by which the state guaranteed them dividends and required them to construct new lines of road to the expenditure of 7,000,000,000 francs, guaranteeing them a dividend. Here was a chance for the boodlers and they were not slow in availing themselves of it. Syndicates were formed, and the Government bled to satisfy the greed of the boodlers. It is said that last year the Government paid on clearly manipulated contracts 234,000,000 francs or nearly \$47,000,000, and it is asked this year for \$52,000,000 more. "Meanwhile of course the earnings of the road declined and when the Government was urged to break the subsidy contract the courts declared them perpetual." It leaked out that senators and members of the Chamber of Deputies were interested in the contracts to a very considerable extent. Accusations were openly made in the Chamber when the explosion came and there appear to be only too many and too good grounds for them. We have seen that some of the stolen Panama Canal money was expended in building the subsidized roads, so that the scandal has become a very complicated one. What the upshot of this bad business will be no one as yet seems to have the least idea. It has, so far, killed a Government, and it will no doubt have the effect of destroying many reputations; but whether it will result in compelling French politicians of easy virtue to mend their ways and in making boodling in the legislature impossible is evidently more than the true patriots in France dare hope.

SCHOOL HOURS.

We see that there was some talk at the last meeting of the School Trustees about extending the school hours. We trust for the children's sake that the Trustees will take no hasty action in this matter. There are a good many who seem to think that the longer the school hours are the more is learned by the pupils. There could not be a greater mistake than this. In fact, the reverse of this, within a certain limit, is true. As far as the schools are concerned, the fewer hours the more work is much nearer the truth than the more hours the more work.

The reason of this is plain to those who take the trouble to study the matter as all carefully. Children can study only so long as their attention is on their work. Those who have observed children carefully and intelligently know how hard it is for them to keep their attention fixed on a subject—even a pleasant and interesting one—for any length of time. They very soon get weary, and their minds will wander in spite of their own efforts to keep their attention fixed on their task and the exertions of the teacher to keep them at work. As soon as

circumstantial evidence. And it is astonishing how clearly the circumstances point to the murderer. We had an instance of this only a few months ago in this Province. The evidence against Stroebel was purely circumstantial. In one respect the evidence resembled very much that adduced against Durrant. The murderer was traced from place to place and every minute that he was absent from his boarding house was noted. The prisoner gave a plausible and most likely a true account of what he had been doing the greater part of the day; but there was a short time that he could not account for to the satisfaction of the jury. The account of where he was during that short space of time was contradictory and confused. And this was the time in which he visited the house of the murdered man and committed the crime. If Stroebel had suffered the punishment due to the crime without having confessed there would have been hundreds of humans and well-meaning people who would maintain to the end of their days that he was a victim of circumstantial evidence. Happily the man confessed and the confession showed how reliable the evidence on which he was convicted had been. Those who complain of the unreliability of circumstantial evidence in Durrant's case are exactly in the position of those who sympathized with Stroebel and believed him to have been unjustly condemned. We believe if the whole truth were known in connection with the murder of Blanche Lamont people would be surprised at the ingenuity with which the counsel for the prosecution had welded so many links of evidence, many of them considered by themselves weak and irrelevant, into a chain of evidence so strong that they would wonder that any one should be so wanting in discernment as for a single moment to doubt its strength.

THE SCHOOLS QUESTION.

In answer to a letter from a Nova Scotia friend on the Manitoba school question, Sir C. H. Tupper writes as follows: Thanks for your very frank letter of the 10th. I am worried beyond measure that you and I cannot agree in all things political at least. In every way I want your support—not for the mere political result alone, but as a valued friend it is in every way desirable to me. You say we cannot carry remedial legislation in this parliament. Of course, on a question of principle I cannot help it if that be so, yet I will venture the prophecy that, should the question come to the federal house, we will carry it by a majority of both parties.

I am, as you are aware, a Protestant, but I confess to you I have not your strong aversion to Roman Catholics. I have known so many good and true men who were Catholics that in some such way perhaps it is that I have been led to believe that much of the prejudice against them as a body is due more to the age or country in which we live than to the excess of misdeeds on the part of this church occurred than to other considerations. In this part of Canada where I now am, history does not record more noble works than have been done by Catholic priests. In the Northwest I am sure you would find, as I have the narrative of their trials and successes. Father Loebbe has labored for 45 years in the Territories among the Indians. His life was given to God. Our own Protestant clergymen tell of his splendid character. Father Dawson, who lately died here, was loved by all who knew him, and his last public appearance was at a sacred meeting on a platform with Rev. Mr. Herdridge, of St. Andrew's church.

THE KEELY MOTOR.

The Keely motor still exists in an imperfect condition. It is one of those wonderful contrivances which is going to do astonishing things in the future, but which never seems to get any "forwarder." When it was first heard of it was going to produce a revolution in mechanics such as the world has never seen since the application of steam to machinery, but though its discoverer or inventor thought so highly of it, and induced many bright men to expect great things of it, it never appeared to get beyond the inchoate stage. Much money was spent upon the motor, but those who invested their means in it never got anything but promises and predilections in return. Of late years nothing has been heard of the Keely motor. It seemed to have been consigned to the limbo of impracticable inventions and futile discoveries. But we see by the New York Times it has come to the surface again and that its inventor has unabated faith in its powers and capabilities. This is the Times' article on the Keely motor:

It is reported that Mr. John Jacob Astor has recently purchased a large interest in the Keely motor from a person who for some years past has been an enthusiastic advocate of Mr. Keely. This report reminds us that Mr. Keely has failed thus far to notice a challenge published in June last by Electricity, a well known trade journal. This challenge is reproduced below: "We will undertake to repeat, without recourse to other than well known physical agencies, every phenomenon which Mr. Keely will produce by his so-called newly discovered force or agencies. To enable us to do this, we ask no special privileges from the editor of Keely's workshop. We ask only to be permitted to see the experiments performed as he will show them to other experts, in order that we may know the task that is before us. If Mr. Keely will give us this opportunity, we will agree to repeat everything which he does, before the committee of experts, provided that they are men of recognized standing in the scientific world, within sixty days."

This challenge is now five months old. Mr. Keely informed the directors of his company last week that "before the end of the year" he would "positively be all through with work to prove conclusively that he has devised a practical commercial working engine" operated by his new force. If our memory serves us, he has made several announcements of this kind since the company was organized, twenty-one years ago. He can afford to give one day to the experts representing this challenge, and the terms of the challenge, together with his own recent suggestion to the inspection by other experts, show that not more than one day of his time would be required.

SALMON NOT TROUT.

The Canadian Gazette (London) of the 31st ult., contains the following article under the caption "Salmon not Trout." "We are glad to be able to announce that after scientific investigation the Fishmongers' Company has removed the prohibition it placed upon the sale of British Columbia salmon in this market. The question was whether these British Columbia salmon were really of the salmon species, and so admissible for sale during the British salmon close season, or whether they were trout, the sale of which—whether British or foreign trout—is absolutely prohibited by law from October to February. The question was submitted to one who is probably the highest authority on salmon, Dr. Gunther, who has for forty years been connected with the Science Department at South Kensington, and his report is as follows:—"I beg to inform you that the fish from the Fraser river has safely reached me, and that I have examined it to-day. Although the fish belongs to the family Salmonidae, and goes often by the name of 'Californian Salmon,' it is widely different from our own sea trout (Salmo trutta, S. conirostris, S. erioz, etc.), and from our freshwater trout, whilst the Californian salmon belongs to the division Oncorhynchus, which division has no representative in European waters—or, indeed, in any waters belonging to the Atlantic. All the fishes belonging to Oncorhynchus live in waters running into the Pacific. The particular specimen which you have sent me is Oncorhynchus quinnat, with which species it agrees in all external and internal characters. "The name 'Snok Eye' is a corruption of

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Movement to Abolish as a Waste of Time the Public Examinations.

Truant Officer to Be Appointed Next Month—Inquiry Into Whipping Cases.

The school board had a regular meeting Wednesday, Chairman Hayward presiding, and all the members present.

M. J. Conlin wrote resigning the position of truant officer, which he has occupied since Oct. 14, as he found that his duties as sanitary officer occupied all his time. He recommended the permanent appointment of some energetic man, and submitted a bill for \$20 for his services.

The Chairman endorsed the recommendation of a permanent appointment.

The matter was laid over for the present. Miss A. D. Cameron, principal of South Park school, wrote reporting that in the ward many children of school age do not attend, and may be seen loitering in the park. Received and to be acknowledged.

W. J. Merrifield in reply to Mr. Netherby's statement as to the flogging of his boy, demanded an investigation. Mr. Merrifield attempted to press his request, producing the sticks said to have been broken on the boy's legs, but it was decided not to go fully into the matter at present in the absence of the teacher; and that an investigation shall be held at the Central school at 3 p.m. on Friday.

Philip A. Phillips complained of a severe beating with a pointer administered to his boy Solomon L. Phillips by his teacher, Mrs. Taylor. Ordered to be investigated at 4 p.m., on Friday, after Trustee Glover had protested against allowing corporal punishment at all.

The Smead Dowd Company wrote from Toronto requesting the payment of \$70, claimed to be still due on their recent contract with the board, and charging the architect with arbitrary conduct in making the deduction. Referred to the Chairman and Trustee Glover, as a special committee to consult with the architect.

F. W. Howie, secretary of the New Westminster school board, inquired whether the half-yearly public examinations have been done away with in Victoria as suggested last year.

No such action having yet been taken the matter was debated, without result for the time being.

In answer to request from the board for the names of teachers absent from the parade on children's day at the exhibition, Principal Miss Williams reported that Miss Keas was absent through illness; Principal Doran, that Mrs. Taylor was absent because she did not consider attendance necessary, her class being excused; and Principal Miss Cameron reported all her staff present. No other reports had been sent in; but Principal Tait being present stated verbally that all his staff were present. Those who have not replied will be asked to state why they have not done so.

The attendance reports for the month past showed a falling off of about fifty per cent.—largely due, it was explained, to the unnecessary score about scariotina. For instance, the thirty children from the orphan's home had been withdrawn.

Trustee MARCHANT moved a resolution in effect that applications be called for for the position of truant officer, to be filled at the December meeting, at a salary of \$40 a month.

MRS. GRANT seconded the resolution, and expressed the hope that the trustees would give women an equal chance in the matter if applications.

TRUSTEE LEWIS did not know that this is an opportune time to make an addition to the expense of the schools, for he felt that in the spring the matter of making a reduction will surely come up, eight out of every ten of the ratepayers being, he thought, of this opinion.

TRUSTEE LOVELL also stated that some people are talking pretty strongly about the salaries paid in the schools now.

TRUSTEE MARCHANT suggested that a pupil teacher or janitor might act as truant officer.

The motion was carried, Trustee Lewis dissenting.

TRUSTEE LOVELL reported the result of his conference with Chief Dassy on the matter of ensuring against danger to the children in case of fire. He also stated that Mrs. Marvin had applied for the use of the Pemberton gymnasium after school hours for her private class, and that the application is endorsed by Mrs. Pemberton. He, as chairman of the gymnasium committee, had granted the application. His action was unanimously endorsed.

The janitor of the North Ward school was on motion of Trustee Glover allowed \$10 for carpenter work done during the holidays.

TRUSTEE GLOVER moved a resolution inviting the co-operation of other boards in the province in securing the abolition of the semi-annual exhibition in connection with the closing of the schools, now causing an unwarrantable waste of time; also to secure authority for the boards to extend the school hours when considered necessary.

TRUSTEE LEWIS thought they should also get power to reduce the number of subjects taught. He would have fewer subjects, more thoroughly taught.

The motion by Trustee Glover was carried unanimously.

TRUSTEE LOVELL asked for needed improvements to the blackboard at Rock Bay school and for blinds on the windows. Laid over for the present.

TRUSTEE GLOVER asked for a plank walk from the girls' gate at the North Ward school. Referred to supply committee.

The board adjourned, to meet at the Central school at 3 p.m. on Friday.

Awarded Highest Honors—World's Fair.

DR. PRICE'S CREAM BAKING POWDER MOST PERFECT MADE.

A pure Grape Cream of Tartar Powder. Free from Ammonia, Alum or any other adulterant. 40 YEARS THE STANDARD.