

MILITARY TRAINING IN THE SCHOOLS

"Such Training is of the highest value in developing the moral, physical and intellectual qualities of the children, as well as that valuable quality known as patriotism."—Lord Strathcona.

MILITARY drill and physical training in the schools is a subject which has engrossed the attention of many people in many countries at various times. At the time of the North-West Rebellion of 1885, quite a movement in favour of it came into existence. Enthusiastic teachers here and there took up the work. Again during the South African war, the movement again took form and substance. In some of our larger cities, the subject has received attention regularly, and cadet corps have been part of the established order of things. In Toronto, for example, Inspector James L. Hughes has maintained military drill as part of the curriculum.

So far as the records go there is nothing to show that any provincial minister of education has ever laid down any comprehensive regulations on the subject. As there is no Dominion minister of education, there could be no educational influence from that source. There has, however, been a continuous influence emanating from the militia department. Sir Frederick Borden has consistently worked along this line. The consequence is that there are many cadet corps of one kind or another, some connected with educational institutions and some quite independent.

Last year Sir Frederick set on foot a broader scheme for introducing military training and physical drill into every provincial educational system, beginning with Nova Scotia. By an Order-in-Council of August 13th, 1908, there was ratified by the Dominion Government an agreement between the educational authorities of Nova Scotia and the Minister of Militia at Ottawa regarding "Physical Training and Military Drill in all Public Schools" of that province, and on the same date an Order-in-Council was passed sanctioning the extension of the agreement to other provinces subject to mutual arrangements.

This first Order-in-Council is so important that it must be reproduced here. It is to be the foundation of all our future work of this kind and was undoubtedly the reason for Lord Strathcona's magnificent donation of \$10,000 annually for this purpose. The order reads as follows:

"The Minister of Militia and Defense submits the following synopsis of proposals entered into between the Educational Authorities of the Province of Nova Scotia and himself respecting Physical Training and Military Drill in all public schools of that Province:—

"The Provincial Educational Authorities have, on their part, undertaken:—To enforce more generally their regulations respecting Physical Training and Military Drill in all public schools. To adopt for the future, a system to be uniform with that of the other Provinces of the Dominion and of Great Britain suitable to the age and sex of the pupils. To encourage the formation of cadet corps and of rifle practice among boys who are old enough to attend the High School. To require, before granting a teacher's license of higher grade than the 3rd class, a certificate of competence to instruct in physical training and elementary military drill, such certificate (Grade 'B' Military), to be issued after the examination of the candidate by the Department of Militia and Defense.

"As regards these, certificates will be issuable to teachers of either sex. There will also be issued a Grade 'A' (Military) certificate, which will represent competency to instruct in both physical training and advanced military drill, including rifle shooting. This certificate will be issuable to male teachers only, upon their passing a satisfactory examination after a course of instruction carried out at or under the supervision of a military school of instruction.

"The Minister has undertaken, on behalf of the Dominion, to provide:—Competent instructors at convenient places and seasons in order to enable teachers to qualify themselves to carry out physical training and military drill; the payment of a bonus, annually, to every qualified teacher who actually imparts this instruction, provided he makes himself eligible therefor by becoming a member of the Militia.

"The bonus referred to in the foregoing

By NORMAN PATTERSON

paragraph shall be paid only upon the certificate of an Inspecting Officer of the Militia that the instruction imparted was satisfactory.

"The amount of such bonus and the minimum number of boys necessary to form a corps, upon the instruction of which the amount shall depend, will be as may be hereafter determined.

"To supply belts, caps (if desired), and a proportion of the arms and ammunition; also, drill books for the more advanced training of the cadet corps.

"To prepare a syllabus of the work required to be done by a school or college cadet corps, in order to entitle the teacher to the annual bonus, and to conduct the necessary examinations."

In the Nova Scotia Education Department's report for the year ending July 31st, 1908, it is mentioned that training experts from the Militia Department were present and gave a free course at the summer school for the Atlantic provinces held in July at Sackville, N. B., and also at the summer school held in Truro. Next July, even the transportation of the teachers to the Summer School at Truro is to be paid. With free drill and free transportation, the Nova Scotia teachers should not be averse to taking a military holiday. In July and August a Military School is to be held in Halifax, as was the case last year, where teachers desiring to qualify for commands of cadet corps will have special opportunities and special privileges.

With Lord Strathcona's generous assistance, this Nova Scotia system will now be extended to the other provinces—unless they object. Lord Strathcona says that he has long entertained the opinion that such training is of the highest value in "developing the moral, physical and intellectual qualities of the children, as well as that valuable quality known as patriotism." He will donate a quarter of a million dollars "to take part in the good work," hoping that this sum when invested will provide \$10,000 annually in perpetuity. As Parliament has, on motion of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. R. L. Borden, publicly tendered its thanks and cheers to Lord Strathcona for his magnificent encouragement of Sir Frederick Borden's movement, there is scarcely any reason why it should meet with anything but the warmest enthusiasm in the various provinces.

"The Men of the Northern Zone" can only be kept strong and vigorous by careful attention to both physique and intellect. The battle of this life is not always to the man with the greatest brain. That brain must be housed in a strong body, capable of enduring great strains. Many a medallist has disappeared early in life because his body broke down while yet his mind was clear and strong. Moreover in national contests, military or commercial, physique counts for as much as brains. Japanese physique, and the perfect care of that physique, made Japan the victor over Russia—the little brown man won from the big white man. Hence Canada is justified in giving considerable attention, especially in her growing towns and cities, to the physical development of her youth.

PUBLIC OPINION

POSITION OF ROMAN CATHOLICS.

Editor CANADIAN COURIER:—

Sir,—If Dr. Carman and S. H. Blake tried even to make us believe that Jonah swallowed the whale, instead of the "whale swallowing Jonah," it would surely be no valid reason for you to insinuate what is false against Archbishop Langevin and the Catholic Church, as you seem to do in your issue of March 20th.

I have seen no official announcement of the object of Archbishop Langevin's visit to Ottawa, but I presume that it was, to get relief, for his people, in what the highest court of the Empire pronounced a "grievance." Now to try to get relief or to get rid of a grievance is surely not to get a special privilege?

Neither are separate schools a special privilege for Catholics for the very act of Parliament that granted them to Catholics in Ontario granted them also to Protestants and coloured people, and I think that if you enquire you will find that Protestants (at Longford, Ont.) were the very first to take advantage of the act. And that Catholics do not consider them as a special privilege is proved by the fact that where they are vastly in the majority, in the Province of Quebec, they granted a complete system of separate, or Protestant, schools to the Protestant minority.

No! the Catholic Church needs no special privileges and asks for none. She feels quite capable of fulfilling the Divine commission: "Go therefore and teach ye all nations; baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and behold I am with you all days, even to the consummation of the world" (Matt. 28: 19, 20) if she is simply allowed *British justice and fair play*.

Yours faithfully,

JUSTICE.

March 22nd, 1909.

GOW GANDA'S RIVAL.

Editor CANADIAN COURIER:—

Sir,—There is, there has been, and above all, there always shall be, a certain district in Quebec which within the near future will cause both Cobalt and Gow Ganda to take back seats, and in those back seats of theirs they will realise what wealth is; however, they may console each other with the old saying, "Every dog has its day."

This said district in Quebec, of which Fabre

lies snugly in the centre, is situated directly east of Lake Temiskaming, the little Cobalt camp being on the west side of the lake. However, the fact of the lake butting in so rudely there doesn't alter the formation of the rock, so that the Ontario side does not differ from the Quebec side in any particular. The formation is all one, both sides being precisely the same. The lake is a little pond lying at the bottom of two hills. This rival holds mineral wealth which will cause mining camps in other diggings to explode, and the cry will be, "To Fabre, boys! to Fabre, the prospector's paradise!"

One other thing to be mentioned is this, concerning its conglomerates. We have them there, and they can't be equalled. These conglomerates hold treasures which King Midas would have coveted, but no, they are for you and me. Yes, and all our friends, and others, too; but when, oh, when? Till now this district has been severely handicapped, there being no railway as a means whereby to ship its wealth, and above all, I regret to say the unsatisfactory conditions of the present Quebec mining laws.

But ho! the time for great rejoicing is near at hand; the Quebec mining law is going to be changed, having in it the same conditions as those prevailing in Ontario. The Canadian Pacific Railway, which has had its survey through for a new line these last three years, has commenced operations already on the new road. This coming summer will surely see a big rush there, things will boom, boom, boom, there will be nothing to prevent it being a strong and worthy rival of Gow Ganda.

E. G. C.

RE "BLOOMING HENGLISH."

Editor CANADIAN COURIER:—

Sir,—In a few of your last publications of the COURIER, I have noticed some rather sarcastic remarks about the "Blooming Englishman" which I think are really uncalled for and out of place. I'll admit there are some who fully deserve the ridicule you have passed on them, and probably more, but I notice you never mention anything about the "Bum Canuck," and there are quite a few in whichever province you hit. I have been in Canada now for twenty-five years and have met all nationalities, but I think there is nothing to equal the Canadian bum.

Yours truly,

A. ENGLISH.

The Wild Woolly West, March 11, 1909.