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Canada's Weakness.

The prevalent business stagnation in the province of Ontario is becoming a serious matter. A philosophical enquirer will always look for the cause of an effect. In this province one cause is undoubtedly over-education. Europeans always have noticed that Americans have a tendency to dislike manual labour and prefer to lounge about while other people do the work. Other keen observers notice a dislike to exertion, and trace this dislike to climate. On a hot summer day there is certainly a tendency to rest one's legs on one chair and one's body on another, and in extremely cold weather it is pleasant to sit by the fire. But even allowing this to be the case, we do not think that Canadians can be considered as a lazy or effeminate race. They work hard enough when they do work, and the climate, instead of enervating them, demands a survival of the fittest. But where they are put on the wrong track is by the education which is given to them. The public schools fill their young heads with notions which absolutely unfit them for that state of life to which it pleased God to call them. Restless ambition seizes them. Every farmer's son must be a preacher, a teacher, or a lawyer, or a doctor. Every farmer's daughter must be a typewriter, or a sales "lady." In the city it is worse. The young plumbers and butchers and bakers have their heads stuffed with the "ologies," and the teaching of trades and technical knowledge is neglected.

The young girls instead of being taught cooking and sewing are taught music and singing and French—all at other people's expense. If the community were absolutely socialistic, and the whole organization of society would be run like one machine, and no more handicraftsmen or domestics were required, the Ontario public school system would be excellent. For the world as it exists and always will exist, it is a Utopian, chimerical and dangerous system. One sad result is the diversion of the mental power of the country into politics. Semi-educated men, with nothing but the gift of speech, undertake to deal with questions which require wide information and great knowledge of the world.

Other men who have everything to gain and nothing to lose, deliberately choose politics because they believe they can make them pay and get some "fat thing" out of them. These two classes form the majority of the actual governing power in the constituencies. We know a city not a thousand miles from here where the foreman of a firehall dictates to the sitting member how the patronage is to be dispensed. Even the scientific positions are in the control of this man. There should be a radical reform in the educational system of the province. Until there is we shall have a diversion of power from the material expansion of the country into lines which thwart that expansion—we shall have a continuance

of jacks in office who ought to be handling the plough—and the result will be that the business interests of the whole country will suffer as they are suffering now. Further, a result of the present style of education is an ignorant know-nothingism. There is an absolute ignoring of any history except Canadian, with an ill-digested smattering of English. Ancient and foreign history are considered out of place, and we are growing as one-sided as the Americans. The consequence is that on both sides of the line theories, which were laughed at by Aristophanes, or advocated by Cleon, are solemnly brought forward to-day by rustic Solons as if they had never been tested and condemned a thousand years ago and more. The wrong men have got into Canadian politics and the right men have got into the way of staying out and letting things go. It is a very dangerous element of weakness and ought to be remedied or worse will happen.—Toronto Week.

Exports of Danish Butter.

The British vice-consul at Copenhagen says that the increase in the export of butter from Denmark in 1891 was very considerable, it being about 20,000,000 lbs. more than in the preceding year. It thus proves (says the official journal issued by the board of trade) that in spite of all competition the Danish butter has not only been able to maintain its position, but has obtained a considerably larger market in England. The enormous increase in quantity is due to the cheapness of fodder. "Of late years cheap quantities of rye and barley—the latter especially from the Black Sea—have been imported into Denmark, and these cereals have mostly been used for fodder, thus very greatly increasing the produce of butter. It is also a fact that the middle classes in England seem nowadays more and more to adopt a continental mode of living, in which butter is a most important feature, thus naturally increasing the market in England, which it is hoped may be maintained as long as all efforts are made, both by way of experience and science, to keep up the first-class position of the Danish butter."

The only complaint is the fall in price. In the interesting report of the Danish Chamber of Commerce for 1891, the farmers are most seriously advised to reduce the expenses connected with the manufacture of butter, so as to enable them to sell cheaper, whereby, in the opinion of the chamber, "the market in England will be secured for a long time."

An Immigration Incident Recalled.

J. A. Donaldson, sr., of Toronto, who as immigration agent for the Dominion Government had some connection with the early settlement in Manitoba, sends The Commercial an interesting story in connection with

the early Mennonite immigration. Mr. Donaldson says: In a recent copy of The Commercial I have read with a great deal of interest an account of the early settlement of the Mennonites. As they all went through my hands while immigration agent here, a little circumstance occurred which may surprise as well as amuse you.

Near the close of the season a large party arrived and had with them some two thousand pounds in paper rubles. I took them to the Bank of Montreal where I had been in the habit of getting their money changed, when to my surprise the cashier Mr. Zistue said he did not know the value of a paper ruble and refused to give the Canadian funds for them. I then went to the Bank of Toronto and received the same answer, then I came to the conclusion to wire New York and get the value. When on my way I went into a brokers office and put the matter before their manager who also said he did not know their value but would wire New York and on our return an hour after he was ready to change their money, and did so. This is the point, he gave them two thousand dollars more than they should have received. I range to say the firm failed the next morning before I could take any action in the matter and I made up my mind the funds would be more use to the Mennonites than the creditors of this broken down firm and hence they have the money to this day.

Immigration to the United States.

The bill providing for the inspection of immigrants by United States consuls, which has been for some time under consideration by the House immigration committee, has just been reported to the House. In the report accompanying the measure the committee says that the object of the measure is to enforce existing laws, and such law as may hereafter be passed by congress restricting immigration. Statistics show, says the report, that with a foreign population of 14.77 per cent., more than half of our white penitentiary convicts, and more than half of the white inmates of our poorhouses are foreigners, and prove that of the immigrants coming here during the past two years too many are deficient in morals, and are incapable physically of self support. The bill does not add to the excluded list of immigrants.

The feature of the hide market at Montreal, says the Gazette, has been the weak feeling in beef hides, and prices declined 3c per lb., due principally to the low price of leather and the combined weakness of United States hide markets. The demand from tanners is slow, and business on the whole is very quiet. Prices were: No. 1, 5c, No. 2, 4c, and No. 3, 3c, calfskins, 6c for No. 1, and 4c for No. 2. Lambskins are quiet at 10c, and sheepskins at 70 to 90c each.