The Colonist.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1894.

THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER.

We find that our evening contemporary in the matter of the utterances of Sir Charles Tupper in Scotland has been doing what it too often does—reasoning upon premises which are wholly false. Our contemporary would have its readers believe that a veteran politician and diplomatist, as the High Commissioner is admitted to be, went to Scotland and there "wantonly insulted" the Government of Great Britain. If our contemporary had been nothing but cautious, if it had no higher motive than a regard for its own reputation for intelligence, it would have hesitated to give credence to such a report, and it would have waited for more and better information before it made such an unlikely story the subject of leading articles. But the Times was too eager to say something injurious of an eminent Conservative to refrain from repeating with exaggerations of its own every foolish rumor that reached it about what Sir Charles Tupper was reported to have said in Edinburgh and Dundee.

Well, the Dundee papers have come to this side of the ocean with full reports of Sir Charles' speech. Here is the dreadful deliverance which contained the "wanton insults" expatiated upon by the Times as it is given from the Dundee Press in the leading article of the Toronto Mail of the 1st inst.:

He (Sir Charles) did not intend to endorse every word that these gentlemen had said. (Hear, hear.) He would be very unwilling to say a single disparaging word of Mr. Gardner, or of any member of the present Government, or of the party by whom they were opposed. As High Commissioner for Canada he was precluded from taking any part in questions of a party character between the two great political parties of this country. But while he said that, he was bound to say also that, as High Commissioner for Canada, he had received during various Administrations in this country nothing from either the one party or the other that did not indicate the most hearty good feeling towards Canada, and invariable kindness towards himself. He wished to say the same of Mr. Gardner, because it must not be forgotten—and he mentioned it in consequence of a contrast that had just been made between Mr. Gardner and Mr. Chaplin—that Mr. Chaplin supported the resolution moved by the Opposition in the House of Commons to prevent live cattle ever being allowed to come into this country. That resolution was resisted strongly by Mr. Gardner—(hear, hear)—and not only so, but he (Sir Charles) was bound to add that Mr. Gardner succeeded on that occasion in negativing that resolution by the support which the Government received from the Irish members. (Applause.) Under these circumstances they could quite see that he was not prepared to say a single word that could in the slightest degree give a party complexion to this matter. In his (Sir Charles') opinion, it was not Mr. Gardner who was at fault in the matter, it was not the present Government who were at fault. The trouble, he added, lay with the experts who had come to the conclusion that Canadian cattle were diseased, on insufficient data. Canada had no pleuro-pneumonia, and had offered to pay all the expenses of the veterinarians if they chose to go out to the Dominion and test the question for themselves.

A more guarded speech than this could hardly have been made. It seems as if the High Commissioner was just a little too careful not to give offence. Sir Charles evidently believed that he was not bound in reason or by his position to refrain from saying what he thought of the work done by experts employed by the Government. Surely the Times is not of the opinion that there is a divinity hedging everyone whom a government sees fit to employ, and that his work whether good or bad must be held sacred from criticism. This is part of the creed of Johnny Tutbunter, Esq., but we did not know that it had been embraced by the organ of the Liberal party in this city. In this Canadian cattle business the Times has taken a very peculiar but characteristic course, and has shown how intensely and blindly partisan it is.

EFFECTIVE HELP.

The Dominion Government has been helping the farmers of the Maritime Provinces of the East in a most effectual way. It has been teaching them how to help themselves, how to make the most of one of the richest and at the same time the most neglected of their resources. It has been teaching them to make such cheese and such butter as will command the highest prices in the British and West India markets. This teaching has been most successful in Prince Edward Island. Every foot of that island is available for agriculture. There is hardly an acre of barren land in it from one end to the other, and there are no rocks. Yet with these advantages the island produced little butter that commanded a good price abroad and not as much cheese as was required for home consumption.

In 1892 the Dominion Government sent dairy instructors to the island, and the first dairy station was established in the settlement of New Perth in that year. The first experimental shipment of cheese from the island was made in the fall of 1892. Its quality was pronounced good. To-day there are sixteen cheese factories and two creameries in the Province, all managed by the dairying service of the Department of Agriculture. One Montreal firm purchased there a few weeks ago 9,974 boxes of cheese "at top market prices." The quantity already exported is considerable. Last year the total turn-over at the Government stations was under $50,000. This season the value of the output of cheese was within a few dollars of $80,000, besides which there is the value of the butter, which will be $15,000. The total quantity of cheese made was 12,022 boxes. The total quantity of the milk received at the cheese factories was 4,259 tons. This is good progress in little more than two years.

Here is the testimony as to the quality of the cheese which the farmers of Prince Edward Island have learned to make:

Speaking at a meeting of the presidents and secretaries of the eighteen dairying companies of P. E. Island in Charlottetown, Mr. Hodgson said that the quality of the cheese produced was as fine as the finest produced in any part of Canada. Prof. Robertson confirms this opinion and says that the reputation of the Island cheese for excellence is now well established in England and here. He gives credit to Mr. Dillon, dairy superintendent for P. E Island, for bringing the quality of the cheese to the very front in good name for superior and uniform quality.

This is what the Dominion Government has done for one of the provinces of the Dominion and we are asked, what is to hinder its doing as much for British Columbia? Our answer is, nothing that we know of. If the farmers of British Columbia want to learn how to make good marketable butter and cheese, and there are enough of them to supply not eighteen but four or five dairy stations, we are quite convinced that if the proper applications are made dairy instructors will be sent here, and as much will be done for British Columbia as has been done for Prince Edward Island, with as good results. We have no doubt that Professor Robertson will give any person, official or other, all the information he may need as to how these dairy stations are established and the conditions on which Government aid and instruction can be procured.

A LITTLE RASH.

Our esteemed correspondent "Pedagogy" has, we submit, been just a little too hasty. He should have given the article which he undertakes to criticise some consideration before he began his attack. He writes under a very curious misapprehension, as the following extract from his criticism shows. After alluding to the fact that both the Minister of Education and the Superintendent of Schools have recommended the establishment of a Normal School, he goes on to say: "A Suggestion hints that these two experts who are supposed to have duly mastered their subject are all wrong, and that the same advantages may be obtained in some mysterious way by an old gentleman called Experience, who is to teach the teachers," etc. When we turn to our article, we find the very first words that follow the quotation from the Superintendent's report are "Dr. Pope is no doubt right." How our correspondent can make "right" read "wrong" we find it impossible to conceive. In our article we did not say one word in disparagement of a Normal School or hint in the remotest manner that such an institution is unnecessary. What we did was to very modestly suggest that in the event of the Government not finding it practicable to establish a Normal School at once the Department might adopt some plan to encourage teachers to perfect themselves in the art of teaching. What we recommended was, in effect, the promotion of teachers according to merit—that merit to be efficiency in the art of teaching. This is the recommendation which our correspondent condemns without hesitation and without qualification.

"Pedagogy" seems to think very little of the teaching of Professor Experience. We differ from him in this, for we have the most profound veneration for the old gentleman. The establishment of a Normal School will not have the effect of driving him out of the public schools. The better qualified the educator is the higher is the value that he places on the lessons of Experience. It will be the venerable Professor's business to finish the educational course of the graduates of the Normal School and to test their ability to put in practice what they have learned.

It is not to be expected that a Normal School will turn out teachers ready-made and warranted to do their work as a factory turns out sewing machines or type-writing machines. The material on which the Normal School Professor works is not like clay in the hands of the potter or metal under the hammer of the smith. After he has done his best he must of necessity be uncertain to a great extent as to the effect which his teaching has produced. It is after the men and women who have passed through his hands have been in the school of Experience a few years that their capabilities, moral and intellectual, can be proved.

"Pedagogy" sees great difficulties in the way of Inspectors judging the merits of the teachers. One would think from the way in which he writes that he believes that the Department of Education lets a number of raw and inexperienced teachers loose upon the country and then leaves them to take care of themselves and the schools they are entrusted to teach. But that is not the way in which the Department does its work. It can be seen by the reports that it takes note of the way in which every school in the country is conducted. The School Inspector follows close on the heels of the miner and the rancher, and a teacher cannot be long at work before that official can tell how he performs his duties. The 200,000 square miles are all covered by the energetic Inspectors, and if they can report on the schools they can judge of the qualifications of the teacher not "superficially" but by the work he does.

We would like to say a word or two about "experimenting" on pupils, but we have only room to remark that there are teachers who do not experiment, who do their duty in a dull, soulless, mechanical way, who are the slaves of system, teachers who do what they can to destroy what intellectual life there may be in the children. Such teachers are a thousand times worse than the experimenters, for there is intellectual energy in them even if it is at times misdirected.

A Normal School under enlightened direction would do much to eliminate both formalists and empirics from the teaching staff of the Province and effect a great improvement in the methods of teaching, although, in our opinion, it would not make grading teachers according to ability unnecessary. We want it to be distinctly understood that the COLONIST sets a very high value on Normal Schools, and that it is as desirous to see one established in this Province as either the Minister of Education or the Superintendent of Education.

A MUZZLED PRESS.

Nothing is more difficult than to get a true account of what happens in any part of the Turkish Empire. There are newspapers in the country but they can publish only such news and such comment on public events as is approved by Censors of the Press, who are ignorant and narrow-minded and who regard as offensive to the Government news items and articles that appear to the newspaper reader in this country as destitute of all political significance.

Every word that is printed in a Turkish newspaper is carefully scanned by the censor and any passage, or expression or epithet that is offensive to him is either ruthlessly stricken out or must be published in a mutilated form, or something else that is allowed to be perfectly harmless inserted in its place.

An article entitled "The Press in Turkey" in the November number of the Nineteenth Century contains a great deal of interesting information relative to Turkish newspapers. The writer, H. Anthony Salmone, says:

Any statement regarding local crime or official oppression and misdemeanor is strictly prohibited. After all due precaution has been taken not to insert anything that may give offence the paper is set in type and *two* copies are printed. These are sent by a member of the staff to Government House. Pending his return, the men at the printing office, of course, have to be idle. The Censor takes his leisure over the matter. Turkish officials do not believe that "time is money." On the contrary they often find it profitable to themselves to waste other people's time. Generally the messenger has to wait four or five hours at the end of which one of the copies is returned and the other kept. Imagine the editor's horror when he finds that four or five columns are struck out! This is done by a long dash of a blue pencil right across the columns, which signifies that the matter therein printed must not be published. The poor man, at his wits' end has to dash off sufficient matter to fill in the blank space and submit a fresh proof. Finally he gets this back signed and they are allowed to go to press. The first three copies are then despatched to the proprietor who has to affix his signature and seal at the bottom of the last page of each and send them at once to the Censor. This mighty personage and his staff carefully peruse them to ascertain if anything be left in corresponding to what was struck out from the first proof. Should it ever happen that by accident the compositors forgot to remove a single word or line of this, the journal is immediately suppressed for an unlimited period.

This is publishing a newspaper under difficulties with a vengeance. It can easily be understood that the newspaper produced under such censorship is really not worth reading. All news respecting the doings of the Government and its officials is carefully kept from the public, and any piece of information which the Censor considers reflects upon the Turkish administration or the Mahommedan religion is never allowed to see the light.

The reader can infer from the above description of press censorship in Turkey that it is literally impossible to get from Turkish sources anything in the shape of a reliable account of the outrages that have been committed in Armenia. It is more than probable, in fact it is almost certain, that the readers of Turkish newspapers have not seen a word about those outrages. It is as likely as not that they have been led to believe that the condition of Armenia is profoundly peaceful, and that its inhabitants are prosperous and contented. The Turkish editor who dare publish what is now believed to be the truth regarding what the people of that country have been made to suffer at the hands of the "unspeakable Turk" would be punished with relentless severity. His plant would be confiscated and he would now most likely be languishing in prison.

Instances are given in the article from which we have quoted of the lengths to which the censorship of the press is carried in Turkey. Trifles, which would in this country be regarded as wholly unworthy of notice, are, under the miscroscopic eye of the Censor, magnified into matters of national importance. For instance, in the matter of titles, Mr. Salmone says:

It has already been stated that the term "Majesty" is never given to European sovereigns. The Pope, moreover, is never allowed to be styled by the Turkish press as "His Holiness," for that title it is alleged belongs to the Prophet Mahommed alone. An Arab weekly paper published about three years ago a short life of the Queen, alluding to her as the "Queen of Great Britain and Ireland and Empress of India." The words *Empress of India* were struck out by the Censor, who remarked that the Government of "the Shadow of Allah on Earth" cannot acknowledge a Christian woman or permit the papers to allude to her as Empress over a country in which there are so many millions of Mahommedans.

The Turkish censorship extends even to the mails, and the Turkish subscriber to a foreign newspaper can never depend upon receiving his copy regularly. Orders are being continually received from the head office at Constantinople to stop the delivery of some foreign paper which is condemned because it is alleged to contain matter adverse to the interests of the Government of the Sultan.

"Once," says Mr. Salmone, "when the foreign mail arrived at Beyruot the newspapers were not delivered, and soon after the Governor, accompanied by the respective consuls, visited the British and Austrian post offices. The doors were locked and they were closeted within for some hours. The Governor took every copy of the Times, Standard and Daily News, and cut therefrom with a pair of scissors half a column which contained a graphic account of the atrocities committed on the Armenians. This was done in pursuance of strict telegraphic orders from Constantinople. The act in itself was bad enough, but how the ambassadors should have so far connived at it is inexplicable, and it is somewhat doubtful whether the Foreign Offices in London and Vienna had knowledge of the occurrence."

The Government of the Sultan evidently loves darkness rather than light. Is this because it is conscious that its deeds are evil However that may be, its policy in its own interests is short-sighted and foolish. Just now, for instance, very much depends upon the people of the Western nations obtaining a reliable account of what has happened and is heppening in Armenia. If there was a free press in Turkey the world would very soon know how much of the news received from that part of the Sultan's dominions is false and how much is true. As it is, it would be worse than foolish to attach the slightest importance to what is allowed to appear in the Turkish papers on the subject. The world must depend upon the accounts sent to the West by persons the truthfulness of many of whom no one can vouch for. Some of the accounts may be pure inventions, and then again in some of them the worst part of the truth may have been suppressed. The public have no check on the retailers of news from Armenia. This would not be the case if the press of Turkey were free. Then again, if there was no press censor in Turkey the Turkish officials would not have the unfortunate people at their mercy. The consciousness that the eyes of the world were upon them and that the opinion of the world was ready to condemn acts of oppression and corruption, would be a restraint upon them and the Government which they serve. We in free countries do not always realize how much we owe a free and untrammelled press.

MONDAY NIGHT'S MEETING.

It is to be hoped that all Conservatives in the city and suburbs whose health will permit will make a point of attending the mass meeting in the Victoria theatre on Monday evening. They will hear from Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper a frank and manly as well as an able address on the politics of the Dominion. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries is a strong party man certainly, but he is a party man in a large and liberal sense. He is a Conservative on principle and when he addresses Conservatives he appeals to principle. He is very far indeed from making little of questions of administration, but he gives such questions their proper place. He does not make them paramount.

It is evident from the tenor of yesterday's editorial in the Times that it is the opinion of the organ of the Liberals in this city that the Conservatives have no political principles, and that, if the Departments do not give them everything they want, and believe they have a right to, they will without changing their minds on the great and vital questions between the parties, join the ranks of the Liberals. Victoria Conservatives owe it to themselves to show the Liberals that they are not open to such appeals as the Times has made to them, that although they may be displeased at some of the acts of the officials of the Departments, and express their displeasure vigorously, they regard these matters when compared with the great political questions that divide parties in this Dominion as dust in the balance. Those who go to hear Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper on Monday evening cannot fail to be pleased with the manner in which he discusses questions, both of local and general interest. They will find that he will shirk no subject because it happens to be unpleasant, but that he will discuss them all reasonably, fairly and very pleasantly. We are much mistaken if he will not be regarded by the great majority of his hearers as a more effective speaker than the much-lauded Mr. Laurier.

IN CONSTANT PERIL.

We trust that Chief Deasy's vigorous and timely letter to the Board of Trade will convince both the Corporation and the citizens that measures should be taken at once to protect property in the city from fire. It is most alarming to know that there is only one fire engine in the city that can be depended upon. If a fire had broken out in a crowded part of the city on Friday, night what might have been the consequences are positively appalling to contemplate. With only one engine to depend upon and the pressure too low to carry the water from the hydrant to the top of a building of any considerable height, the fire in spite of every possible effort on the part of the fire brigade and the citizens would have had its own way, and the next morning nothing would be left for the citizens but to bemoan the loss that the apathy and want of intelligence and foresight on the part of the civic authorities had caused. The citizens of Victoria should be thankful that they are not to-day lamenting the ruinous effects of a procrastination that is hardly less than criminal, and a want of prudence that is almost idiotic.

Why the Corporation have allowed the very important matter of fire protection to fall into the condition described by the Chief of the Fire Brigade, is more than we can comprehend. The danger from fire is neither remote nor uncertain. It is always present, and the causes which bring about a conflagration are constantly at work. The precaution against this ever-present danger should be sufficient, and the apparatus for extinguishing fires should be constantly in good working order. The city cannot afford ever to lessen its vigilance in this matter. It should always be wide awake and always prepared for the most serious contingency. To be cold and careless about a matter of such paramount importance demonstrates a fatuity which in men laying claim to the possession of common sense and common intelligence, is really incomprehensible. The Corporation should be made to feel that they cannot trifle with this matter a single day longer. All that can be done to increase the pressure should be done and the Fire Brigade and its apparatus should be put in an effective condition without an hour's unnecessary delay. Here is a subject that demands the instant attention of the Citizens' Association. Will it be equal to the occasion? It has now an opportunity to show its necessity and its usefulness, and at the same time to do the city a service of incalculable value.

PARLIAMENTARY REPORTS.

It appears that our reports of the proceedings of the legislature do not please the Times—a self-constituted censor modestly concealing the evidence of its qualification for the office. Quibbling and misrepresentation are the most pronounced characteristics of its allies who in the legislature, being "in opposition," have but the one idea—of opposing everything brought forward by the government. Naturally their utterances in the house are largely wind and froth, and the small proportion of substance is often mainly shoddy. If an opposition speaker talks for an hour and says so little that he can be fairly reported in a dozen lines, the fact is to be deplored, but the paper which spares its readers and respects their intelligence should not be held responsible. For the same reason that the opposition are anxious to so time their speeches in the house that the members of the government cannot immediately answer their attacks and expose their trickery, they are no doubt desirous of getting the benefit of the circulation of a respectable and widely read newspaper such as the COLONIST. But we must decline to print under the shelter of parliamentary privilege statements which, because of their false and slanderous nature, we would not think of publishing if delivered elsewhere than in the house. Fancy the Thunderer reporting curious mixtures of slander and nonsense such as are here sometimes offered as debate!

A NORMAL SCHOOL.

TO THE EDITOR:—I see by an article headed "A Suggestion" in your issue of yesterday, that the Superintendent of Education has recommended the establishment of a Normal School for teachers, and that a commencement might be made in that direction by the appointment of two teachers as instructors. If my memory serves me right the Minister of Education also, on one or two occasions, advocated the establishment of a Normal School, and stated that the whole annual expenditure for such a necessary institution need not exceed $5,000. "A Suggestion" hints that these two experts, who are supposed to have duly mastered their subject, are all wrong and that the same advantages may be obtained in some mysterious manner by an old gentleman called "Experience," who is to teach the teachers in their respective schools—which are scattered over 200,000 square miles—all the intricacies of pedagogy free of all charge and expense to the country.

If any of the teachers refuse to be guided by this old gentleman called "Experience" they are to be brought before one of two autocrats called school inspectors and to be immediately cast out. This sounds like a most delightful way of settling the whole difficulty, and I would respectfully submit that the author of it should be made either Minister of Education or Superintendent in order to put it in force, but at the same time I must confess I should like a little more light on the subject.

First of all it seems that the teachers are to experiment upon the pupils and by the light of experience remedy any defects that exist in themselves as fit and proper persons to teach the young, and those who have practiced on the young minds and failed signally are to be cast out. I feel inclined to say, poor pupils! and to ask what the parents would think of it.

Then again, to come to the practical working of such a system, let us try to follow the judges, the two school inspectors. I take it for granted that on visiting a school an inspector must devote at least a week to examining and watching the results of the working teacher, and even then his decision must rest on very imperfect grounds. There are, I believe, over 216 schools in the province and about 320 teachers; therefore it would take the two inspectors at least four years to inspect and decide upon the capacity of all the teachers. But these 216 schools are scattered over 200,000 square miles, therefore I want to know who is to pay the travelling expenses of the inspectors? If it is to be charged to the government it will mount up to a very large sum indeed, and the old gentleman, "Experience," would be very expensive.

Again, the school trustees—who represent the people—now appoint the teachers and are very jealous of their rights. Say, a school inspector comes round and examines a teacher who has been trying to teach himself to teach by experimenting upon his pupils, but the inspector tells him that he knows nothing about his business and must go. The school trustees, however, think differently. What then?

Normal schools for teachers, which are now being established all over the civilized world, act on the principle that children are not meant to be experimented upon; that it is not intended that they should teach the teachers, but that the teachers should be fully competent for the important responsibility of teaching the children. Consequently, after the aspirants for teacherships have passed a qualifying examination to show that they have brains, they are drafted into the Normal school, where under special experts they are trained in the art of teaching and those who are found possessed of the necessary qualities are granted certificates, while the balance is sent empty away. School trustees are then told: Here is a stock of highly trained teachers from whom you must select; take which you like, they are all good.

According to my lights I should prefer a Normal school to the "old gentleman."

PEDAGOGY.

A TORONTO lady says: "I have tried a great many remedies but never found one to give me so much relief as Eseljay's Liver Lozenges. I would not be without them." They are sold at 25c. a box at druggists'.

Some people laugh to show their pretty teeth. The use of Ivory White Tooth Powder makes people laugh much than ever. It's so nice. Price 25c. Sold by druggists.

TEACHERS' QUALIFICATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR:—Your suggestion in the direction of avoiding for the present the expenditure necessary for a "Normal School" deserves serious consideration.

There is a well grounded feeling among many of the best friends of free popular education that its increasing cost is its most dangerous enemy, and that until the very best results are obtainable from the present expenditure it is unwise to go on piling on the agony until possibly in sheer despair the oppressed ratepayers be tempted to shake off the yoke entirely.

I believe with you that some well ordered and successful effort could be made by the educational authorities "to grade teachers according to their known ability to teach," the immediate effect of which would be an immense stimulus to young teachers to avail themselves of their abundant opportunities to acquire the technical knowledge and experience necessary for a "grade."

Dr. Pope is undoubtedly right in stating that it is unwise as a general rule to place a school in charge of a teacher who possesses no other recommendation than a certificate, but what has he done to prevent this folly? All the certificates issued by him are alike in this respect, that the most incapable and even a pronounced failure as far as ability to teach or to maintain discipline is concerned, has the same recommendation in his certificate as the oldest and most successful teacher, and it is only by costly experience on the part of trustee boards repeated here and there all over the province that the incapables are eventually estimated at their true worth.

But your excellent idea suggests a way to greatly improve on this state of things, even with the Normal school in abeyance, and I hope it will be adopted. With the facilities they have, the educational authorities ought to be able in a very short time to give nearly every teacher a "rating," and, indeed, I have often wondered what the legitimate duty of the inspectors of schools could be, unless it included a comprehensive estimate of the teacher's ability to teach.

I trust, Mr. Editor, that having put your hand to the plow you will not look back until some important changes are made by which the competent, successful, and deserving teacher receives official recognition according to his teaching merits, on the face of his certificates.

"SIGMA."

THE NORMAL SCHOOL

TO THE EDITOR:—In your issue of Thursday, commenting on the report of the Superintendent of Education, you make two suggestions on which I should like to say a few words, supposing that your editorial utterances are open to criticism. That the present hard times will take part with you in suggesting economy, and that the establishment of a normal school may not be immediate, many teachers will be ready to agree; but your other suggestion in favor of the present plan of allowing inexperienced teachers to learn by teaching should not pass without, at any rate, a full discussion.

This plan, though it may be only permitted and not deliberately planned, consists in taking a newly-made teacher, plus a certificate, minus experience, and paying him or her $50 per month for services worth about $25. This is rather a liberal estimate, for a young and inexperienced teacher does not usually do one-half the effective work of a skilled normal school graduate. In consideration of the extra pay, $25 per month, which the teacher does not fairly earn, he works zealously at completing his education as a teacher, that he may be able hereafter to serve the public better. His education is completed by the method of trial and error, by experimenting on methods of teaching till he has learned how to teach.

His early methods will be founded on those of his own teacher, a man educated from 10 to 50 years ago, and hence will he more or less antiquated. He does not know that the science of education has made progress during this period of ten or fifty years, and it is a well-known fact that "reading up" a text book on education in preparation for his examination was never known to influence any inexperienced teacher in actual work. He must see these methods in practical use before they become part and parcel of his mental equipment. A "book-teacher" is almost as much a *rara avis* as a "book-farmer."

But the bill which the public pays for this "education by experience" is longer yet. After he has mistaught one school for a year he removes to another, leaving a legacy of bad habits and distorted ideas in the minds of his scholars, a garden of weeds which his successor must uproot before he can re-plant with anything useful. And this is no easy task. I have seen a class, neglected by one teacher and ill-trained by others, stand absolutely still during the following year while old habits were uprooted and old facts retaught upon a rational basis. I have seen a class which had learned geography for two or three years without ever seeing a map! It may seem an incredible statement, but they had actually learned by rote lists of rivers and mountains, not knowing where any of them were to be looked for.

Now, experience alone may lead a teacher to discard such methods, but the fundamental error of half instructed teachers will remain, the error of mistaking the stepping stones of education for its final ends and aims. Spelling and writing are only the stepping stones to dictation, and this is merely a stepping stone to the art of composition—the most valuable thing a child can carry away with him from school. Grammar, as usually taught, is absolutely without value. It should be merely a stepping stone to analysis, the value of which as an aid to composition is generally undervalued.

Sound ideas on such topics as these must be taught either at a normal school or at model schools, the only efficient substitute. If we cannot get a normal school at once why should not model schools be instituted at which tyros may see the best methods in actual practice under the best teachers available in the province? I offer this suggestion for what it may be worth, and it seems to me to offer many advantages over the plan of waiting till new teachers have educated themselves at the public expense by mis-educating the pupils committed to their charge. I am, yours obediently,

EXPERIENTIA.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria.
When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria.
When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria.
When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

Dyspepsia arises from wrong action of the stomach, liver and bowels. Burdock Blood Bitters cures Dyspepsia and all diseases arising from it, 99 times in 100.

Rheumatism Cured in a Day.

South American Rheumatic Cure, for Rheumatism and Neuralgia, radically cures in 1 to 3 days. Its action upon the system is remarkable and mysterious. The first dose greatly benefits. Sold in Victoria by D. R. Campbell.

CHINA-U. S. T

rovisions of the Conve
Ratifications Ha
Exchanged

Immigration of Chin
Absolutely Prohibit
Provisions

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—T
of the new emigrant conven
United States and China we
the State department to-da
Gresham and Minister Yang
President's proclamation of
should be made to-morrow,
it binding upon the citizens
tries. The convention will
for ten years from to-day,
months before that time not
termination shall be given by
continues for a similar period
tion is designed to provide
the better protection of citiz
of each country within the
the other.

Article 1 stipulates that ex
ditions subsequently specifie
tion of Chinese laborers
States shall be absolutely p

Article 2 excepts from th
the preceding article the ret
ed States of every registered
er who has a lawful child or
United States or property t
$1,000 or debts of like amount
ment. To secure this exception
laborer is compelled befor
United States to deposit wit
of customs before he depart
tion in writing of his family
debts, and shall in exchange
with a certificate of his right
feiture of the right is provide
description is proven to be fa

Article 3 excepts the right
joyed of Chinese subjects
teachers, students, merchants
for curiosity or pleasure but
coming to, or residing in th
class, however, is admitted o
tificate approved by the dipl
sular representative of the c
port whence such Chinese
privilege of transit of Chi
across the U. S. in journeyin
other countries is continued.

By Article 4 it is agreed t
the laboring or any other cl
manently or temporarily in t
have all the protection to thei
property that is given to cit
most favored nations except th
come naturalized citizens.

Article 5 recognizes the righ
enact and enforce similar laws
titns to our Chinese registrat
viding for the administration o
can, skilled and unskilled, lab
in China, and binds this gove
port to the government of Ch
name, age, occupation and pl
ence of all citizens of the Unit
cluding missionaries, within
the treaty ports of China."

TORONTO TOPIC

TORONTO, Dec. 7.—(Spec
Clayton, motorman, was pro
hurt to-day by a car running i
hay. The glass in front of the
pieces penetrating his lungs.

The property committee of t
cil has granted permission for
of a monument to the volunte
the Northwest rebellion, on
eastern section of Queen's Park

The loan companies have red
terest allowed on deposits from
cent.

Principal Wherry of the C
school at Windsor, Ont., and
Bartlett had a squabble yest
serious charge against the Prin
ing a terrible beating to Mrs.
twelve-year-old daughter.

The office of Wilkie & Smith
was entered by burglars and a
taining a large number of leg
in cash and a check for $473 ma

Oliver Howland, M.P.P., pre
historical section of the Canadi
delivered an address last nig
gested that a purely historical
exhibition would be an appro
in which to celebrate the disco
ads. He also suggested the er
status to Cabot. It was unanim
to urge the council of the instit
historical exhibition in 1897, si
with the meeting of the British

FERDINAND DE LES

PARIS, Dec. 7.—Ferdinand de
distinguished French engineer i
was born in Versailles on Novem
His fame rests chiefly on hi
pierce the Isthmus of Suez
of a canal which was
steamboat use on August 15, 18
the waters of the Mediterranean
connected with those of the Re
Bitter lakes until August 15
November 17, 1869, the Suez
formally opened at Port Said
of festivities. The last gr
eering work attempted by
was the cutting of a can
the Isthmus of Panama,
the expenditure of 600,000,000
eventually led to the most serio
the work was unsuccessful.

EMPHATIC DENIA

TILSONBURG, Dec. 7.—(Sp
Mr. Haggart gives short but
nial to the World's rumor abou
Thompson resigning. Mr. Hag
never made such a statement a
statement was ever made in h
He added that the next election
be under Sir John Thompson's
Dr. Montague said he knew
Thompson would soon get back
for the work of the session. At
meeting here Mr. Haggart said
heard the date of the next gene
discussed by his colleagues.

BUSINESS REQUIREM

NEW YORK, Dec. 6.—The
Commerce to-day passed the fo
solution: "That the commer
dustrial interests of the country
from tariff agitation; that o
Chinese waters should be reint
railroads should be permitted to
ing agreements, and that the re
of American agricultural produ
should not be discontinued."

Rheumatism is primarily caused by the blood. Hood's Sarsaparilla purifies the blood, and thus cures the disease.