

## RADICAL CHANGE IN OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM

**Ramsay of Bladworth, Discusses Our Present School System, its Expenditure and the Results--Claims that Consolidated Schools are not Adaptable to Western Canada--Advocates a System of Municipal Boarding Schools--A Splendid Review of Educational Work.**

Too frequently the glorifiers of our province write that her area exceeds that of the German empire and her marvelous fertility constitutes her the bread-basket of the empire. Whilst the attention is paid to the true foundation of greatness, the finest product of the farm--man. Saskatchewan's vastness and fertility are mighty assets, they have always existed, but not till man appeared on her lands did Saskatchewan take form and cease to be a void. In the mad rush for material wealth, too frequently the proper uses thereof--leisure, culture and refinement--are lost sight of and the product in the place of the producer is the consideration. We aspire to a higher plane than the farm-servants of Europe's hungry millions--their hewers of wood and drawers of water--a greater destiny is within our reach if we but prepare. What class of people we are, what we are doing to improve our condition and what further improvement we should make to achieve our highest destiny, will be the subject whereof I write.

A prospect of our people reveals rural settlers from Eastern Canada with a fair elementary education; fellow-subjects from the British Isles, with varying mental qualifications; United States pioneers, perhaps, too, the sons of pioneers whose education is that of experience, acquired as we here acquire ours; continental Europeans open to dull servitude confined, and renegades; these in the order named approximate the quality and quantity of our population stock. It would be a harsh thing to state that immigrants are men driven out of the competition of their better fellow men. But it is fair to assert that we settlers emigrate to better our condition. To make this mass homogeneous and elevate to a higher social and intellectual plane is the duty of our statesmen and their instrument, the public school.

In Ontario, Egerton Ryerson, who sought more fully to place the responsibilities of public education on the state, was wont to meet his childless opponents with the argument with the state, "its better and cheaper to pay for the education of your neighbors' children than for their support in a penitentiary." To him, ignorance was the forerunner of crime and rightly so. By the sheer force of a great intellect, he established a simple, effective and enduring public school system for Ontario, one too, the requirement of our people, our mode of life and our climate. Our objective is a system fitted to our people, our present method is a people fitted to a system--a system of expedients that we have outgrown.

It would be a superfluous task to point out to the thoughtful the advantages of an educated population or prove that the onus of education rests on the state. Let me ask the indulgence of the gentle reader whilst I describe a not uncommon condition existing in our province: A horse-breeder was engaged in producing standard-bred horses, incidentally a family, the horses were annually disposed of as unbroken two-year-olds for \$200, the family reached maturity, a natural, the boys were worth \$30 per month as farm laborers, the girls something less as domestics and both added materially to the wealth and comfort of their employers. A shrewd purchaser acquired the horses, and entrusted them to the best trainer money could supply, all were improved, one developed a 2.00 clip and sold for \$10,000. No one suspected the children had "hands that the rods of empire might have swayed or waked to ecstasy the living lyre," yet they were more valuable than many sparrows.

At the date of the latest available report of the provincial department of education is that of 1907. Post mortem reports are not very helpful to students of our educational system. The King's printer is an executive officer of the legislature, apparently too, a deliberative one and we hope soon a retiring one. Untimely reports or lack of reports handicaps a department already straggling, yet they preserve that ignorance of public affairs that small men rely on for security. The King's printer is a certain to the knowledge of public affairs.

Of the very large sum of \$2,139,663 that we say we expend on primary education, little more than half a million was paid for teaching. That is the child for whom the system is maintained received the educational benefit of 25 per cent. of the whole sum expended.

I call the following from the annual reports of the district inspectors for 1907: "Plans of buildings need more expert preparation. Teachers are always changing. The results (Short term schools) show defects in thoroughness and finish. A survey of conditions reveals unequal taxation, inefficient management by local boards, degradation of teaching profession into a temporary occupation. The new measure (Sup. Rev. Act) is an index of an ed-

ment of education "who have given practical recognition to the principle that education is essentially a provincial business." I will try and outline such an institution with its needs and advantages: Compulsory education from 7 to 14 years of age; an industrial school for truants and incorrigibles; one central boarding school in each municipality with a quarter section of park land; centralization of taxation; power and administration in Department of Education with board of local visitors; a school term of 240 days; vacations during harvest season.

The advantages of such a system is that it will reach all the school population, ranching, municipalities and those sparsely settled could combine; effect efficiency and facilitate inspection; secure regularity of attendance; permit grading; reduce teaching staff; permit of physical training; add to effect economy in mental capacity; permit of physical training; obviate the nullifying effects of uneducated parents; permit cultivation of National spirit and the education of association; teach personal hygiene and neatness, but greatest of all, it would be effective.

Our rigorous climate with the cessation of outdoor work in winter, is an ally to such a system--a foe to the present method. Whilst the association of the boys and girls in youth obviates the evils of hasty marriages and makes for homeogeneity. The injustice of the Sup. Rev. Act that taxes people of sparsely settled districts for not having what they cannot have and for the benefit of their more fortunate settlers, sounds like "to him that hath shall be given and from him that hath shall be taken away even that which he hath" would be annulled. Childless parents who know so well how to bring up their neighbors' children, and the absentee speculator who so dearly loves the county, would alike be granted an opportunity of assisting in its development. Whilst the resident mothers and fathers with their grand families of ten and twelve children (God bless them), would be helped as they should be in the up-keep and education of their contribution to our real wealth.

Perhaps Farmer Careful and Dame Timorous will shout, expense! Look at the expense! Let us look at it then. At present we need four schools for each township, 36 for each municipality with a like number of teachers. Figure up what 36 schools with 36 teachers' cost, remembering that under the present system, but 25 per cent. of all moneys spent on education reach the child; figure if you can what the loss of one child's life is worth, going to or from school. Figure parental anxiety at a rising storm; figure permanency of staff, 250 days training in place of our present 148.61 days. Figure economy of teachers, facilities of inspection, advantage of grades, increased efficiency and RESULTS. And you will have figured under the "grub line." The pupils will need food--they need it now, and he in the person of our old friend taxpayer, will pay for the feeding of the same children though under a different roof. Permit me again to state that "it better to pay for the support of your children in a school than in a prison. A province that sets aside one-sixteenth of its public lands for education and whose statesmen are liberal enough to lend the moneys therefrom at 4 per cent. whilst their people pay to the broker 8 per cent. is well able to come down handsomely--if we will let them.

Remember, that the children of today are those who will be our leaders and rulers in 25 years. The cost of the changed system is the cost of the change. And the sooner made the better and cheaper. Comparing the output we will conclude that the best is the cheapest. Give me an ignorant, lawless people and I will import their rulers, their gaolers and their police. Give me an educated people and they will supply the revenue.

But the young, young children, O my brothers, They are weeping bitterly! They are weeping in the playtime of the others In the country of the free.

WM. L. RAMSAY.  
Bladworth, Sask.,  
March 1, 1910.

Two hundred and eighty-eight schools were open more than 200 days; 281 from 151 to 200; 348 from 101 to 150; 152 from 51 to 100; 28 from 20 to 50, and four less than 20 days. Whether this system has any average effect our next census of illiteracy will tell, but we must recognize its demoralizing effect on our teaching staff and that we are developing a peripatetic cult of teachers by an intermittent system of schools.

As to school buildings we find 71 log structures, 1,038 frame, 54 brick 31 stone and 8 classed as other material (but the report is silent as to whether they are constructed of marble or sod); unreported (probably rented) 238, making in all 1,430. To supply these schools with water we have 275 wells of which 100 are reported unsatisfactory, non-existent wells 927, insufficient blackboards 85, unsatisfactory ventilation 603, unsatisfactory desks 172, without libraries 622.

Indifference and ignorance seem to be in evidence with our school boards. The time seems to be ripe for a change in a system that dissipates our energies and squanders our revenue without appreciable results.

The consolidated school system has some advocates and many defenders, some advantages as a summer school in the way of economy of teachers and grades. But it begets a class of men as drivers the nature of whose business breeds idleness and offsets the advantages gained by the pupils. Its founders and experimenters, resourceful, thoughtful men, must needs be its champions, but they cannot conquer or outwit a climate that looses and freezes strong men on their own farms. Whilst an advance on its predecessor, it is at best but a half-way house to our needs--a public boarding school under the control of the depart-

## UNPLEASANT READING

**For Hero Worshipers--A Boston Man Plays Many a Hero of the Revolutionary War.**

James Henry Stark, a Boston historian, has provoked much criticism and abuse by statements contained in his latest book, "The Loyalists of Massachusetts and the Other side of the American Revolution." Mr. Stark calmly states that his book contains truths which he has gathered after years of research and which other historians have willfully passed by.

Its pages team with facts that demolish the altars erected to Massachusetts' heroes of the Revolution and are extremely humiliating to families who pride themselves on the immutability of their ancestry.

**A Sore Touch**  
Patriotic societies in Boston, such as the Sons of the Revolution are deeply aroused as the book contains many damaging statements that cannot be refuted.

Concerning Patrick Henry  
"Patrick Henry was one of the most unreliable men living. He had been successively a storekeeper, a farmer, and a shopkeeper, but he failed in all these pursuits and became a bankrupt at twenty-four. Then he studied law a few weeks and practised a few years. Finally he embarked on the stormy sea of politics. One day he worked himself into a fine frenzy and in a most dramatic manner demanded 'liberty or death' although he had both freely at his disposal."

**This One a Defaulter**  
"John Adams joined the disunionists, probably because he saw that the revolution was successful there for advancement under the new government. This proved to be the case."

"That Samuel Adams was a defaulter Mr. Stark proves by a copy of a letter sent by Mr. Adams to the town of Boston, of which he was the tax collector. Mr. Adams' securities had to pay \$5,000."

**Boston Tea Party**  
"The illegal seizure of tea was in a certain sense parallel to the so-called 'respectable' mob which on the 11th day of August, 1834, destroyed the Charlestown convent, and a year after nearly killed Garrison and made the jail his only place of refuge."

Many of the signers of the Declaration of independence were smugglers. Mr. Stark asserts, and John Hancock, while having the name of being a "fair" trader, was in reality the owner of one of the smuggling vessels. Concerning Mr. Hancock's connection with Harvard College, Stark writes:

**Harvard College**  
"In 1773, John Hancock was elected treasurer of Harvard College. The amount of the college funds paid over to him was upwards of fifteen thousand and four hundred pounds, and like his friend, Samuel Adams, he too proved a defaulter. For twenty years the corporation begged and entreated him to make restitution. They threatened to prosecute him and also to put his bond in suit, as Adams was, but it was of no avail. He turned a deaf ear to their entreaties and it was only after his death in 1793, that his heirs made restitution to the college, when

a settlement was made, in 1795, in which the college lost five hundred and twenty-six dollars interest. "President Josiah Quincy, of Harvard, later asserted that these defalcations hurt the university considerably, and that it would be grateful to pass over in silence the extraordinary course he pursued in his official relation to Harvard College had truth and fidelity to history permitted."

**"B. Franklin, Mail Thief"**  
In a chapter on the life of Thomas Hutchinson, a loyalist, Stark submits proofs of his claims that Benjamin Franklin, when sixty-seven years old, was dismissed from his position as Boston's postmaster because he rifled the mail boxes. He tells in detail how Franklin was tried in England and banished in disgrace from the service. Mr. Stark is a prominent business man of Boston, head of the Photo-Electroplate Company, of Boston. He is also prominent in club life, being a founder of the Dorchester Historical Society, South Boston Yacht Club, Savin Hill Yacht Club, president of the British Charitable Association, vice-president of the Victorian Club, and a member of the New England Genealogical Society. He was born in London, but came to Boston at the age of eight, and was educated in the local schools. He lives in Dorchester.

**Race War**  
Kansas City, Mo., March 8--Special policemen are dispersing mobs in the streets and public places of Kansas City tonight in an effort to prevent a demonstration against the negroes of that city as a result of the assault on beautiful Miss Cora Downs in a lonely suburb early this afternoon. The police fear they may not be able to cope with the situation if the negro is not captured soon.

The rumor is being spread that following the outrage on Mrs. Jackson in this city several weeks ago by two negroes who were hanged, a large number of arms and are prepared to defend themselves in case of race rioting.

Miss Downs recovered sufficiently this afternoon to tell the police the details of the assault. She said she offered the negro her purse and gold watch and promised not to prosecute him or make any attempt to secure his capture if he would abandon his purpose.

One arrest has been made in the case, but the negro was released on Miss Downs declaring that he was not the one who assaulted her.

**Owes Life to Dog**  
Vancouver, March 10--A Latsbury, a watchman at a snowed shut west of Glacier station, owes his life to his dog. He was yesterday standing near his cabin when a slide descended and not only buried him but carried him against the side of the cabin where he was held for eight hours. A rescue party was sent to Latsbury's place as soon as it was known the slide had occurred and failing to find him immediately, the workmen decided that he had been killed and sent for a coffin. The work of removing the slide had been proceeding for two hours when Latsbury's dog began scratching the snow some distance away. Convinced that the dog had located the body, the workmen dug there and found Latsbury unconscious but still alive.

**Farewell Motherwell**  
Winnipeg, March 7--The general impression in political circles here, confirms the report from Ottawa on the prospects of Hon. W. R. Motherwell being appointed to the Railway Commission. The appointment has practically been in the hands of the Saskatchewan government, and were any other person named besides Mr. Motherwell, the appointment would have been made months ago, as the majority of the western members have been pushing the case at the instance of the Saskatchewan government since the session of 1908. But it has been given to Hon. Frank Oliver, J. G. Turfitt, Senator Davis and others. As a compromise, it is now believed it will go through, Geo. Bell, of Estevan, will likely be the new minister of agriculture in Saskatchewan. He is satisfactory to all the Liberal members.

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**NOTICE**

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**THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE**

**THE WEST**

## LEGISLATURE PROROGUED

**B.C. Parliament Prorogued on Thursday--Liquor License Act is Probably Illegal.**

Victoria, B.C., March 10--This afternoon Lieut.-Governor Falconer prorogued the first session of the twelfth parliament of British Columbia after giving the royal assent to a large number of bills. This morning's was much in the nature of a battle; bill after bill was called for second reading, only to be killed. The socialist leader had seven labor bills on the paper and the government whip had one, all sharing the same fate. The bill proposed the extension of the eight hour day now in force in smelters of all employees who are brought from smelting or refining operations. The premier opposed the bill as likely to drive out capital and lead to the closing down of smelters.

Temperance people are up in arms at the possibility of the government having deceived them in so framing the new liquor act that it must of necessity be disallowed at Ottawa. It was admitted last evening by Premier McBride and Attorney-General Bowser that they saw a probability of the disallowance of the act because it would prevent the issue of licenses to Japanese.

The Liquor License Act of 1899 provided that an applicant must have the signatures of at least two-thirds of the residents of the district, Chinese, Japanese and Indians excluded, and prohibited the granting of a license to persons of either of these races. The Governor-General in Council, acting on the advice of the late Hon. David Mills, then Minister of Justice, recommended that prohibitory legislation, insofar as the Japanese were concerned should not be permitted, and gave the province an opportunity to repeal this prohibition and as it did not do so the act was disallowed.

The Liquor License Act of 1910 requires an applicant to have the signatures of at least two-thirds the total

## RUTHERFORD STILL L

Government Sustains  
Three of a Major  
Charges Made  
Boyle--Cross is Ba

Edmonton, March 11--In the papers the Rutherford had resigned. I want to report. I still occupy this chair for some time have accepted no resignation of the government portfolio with the exception of that of public works, and I expect that filled in a short time. In these words did Premier Rutherford deny the fact that this afternoon the resignation had been circulated to the press was on the verge of resignation the Rutherford government the eve of collapse.

The reply came in a continued questioning of member for Calgary, Mr. Nett, as to the reports and on the streets. Premier Rutherford in continued, after further by Mr. Bennett:

"I stated that we have ment and will continue to govern. I cannot prevent member for Calgary taking cabinet have twice been the people, while the two for Calgary has twice down. I don't propose for advice. I have stated the house what I ought to have said. I have great applause from the benches.

Attorney-General Cross sat again with the Premier, and he has a cabinet. His entry was cheered by government supporters is the result of a complete situation of the Premier's resignation. It is stated that the premier sought the resignation and offered to resign. It is stated that A. C. Rutherford was the one of the government he as he had shown a man in the house it was his duty to refuse to accept of his ministers' act as premier.

Hon. Mr. Cross is reported the premier alone lines. Wanted Cross  
At a late hour last night had been signed by members of the legislature for presentation to the governor demanding a new general be called by government. It is stated that the premier was signed by the press this morning was expected however.

The springing of the bomb was a sensation of order. Immediately after met this afternoon, of Sedgwick, rose attention to the report to Mr. Boyle, who it is attorney general should get power, had approved Stettler, and Boudreau both had been called for consideration in the if they assist in the retain a majority to over-ernment.

Boyle Denies  
At this point he was the Speaker, but Mr. gave an emphatic denial. Shortly after the bomb business.  
Mr. Riley, of Glebe, insurgents moved, confidence resolution, to the motion for the of the bill, it is from today, but the sustained by a vote. The only changes of confidence motion was that Mr. Buchan without portfolio, and with the (insured) Socialist, who supported, was absent.

Edmonton, March 11--The premier today made strengthening the premier gave notice of the complete investigation of the Great Waterways of bonds and all in contract. This is the agent desire of the wholly. The result Hon. Justices Scott of the supreme court. The insurance was Chief Justice handling the investigation preparing a resolution with this view.

A Little  
Incidentally F and R. E. Bennett clash over the question of the resolution in the matter stripped Mr. Boyle's motion the stripped files the stripped files day. Mr. Boyle to an absolute denial published in several