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THE TIMES.

I wish to draw the attention of the Postmaster-General to a very absurd regulation as to the delivery of letters when only addressed to initials. For example—I received a letter last week from some person who did not wish to give his name asking me to appoint time and place for interview on an important matter—giving initials to be addressed to Montreal Post-office. I wrote as requested, and on the third day following the letter was returned from the Dead Letter Office for a more distinct address. Now that is a very absurd regulation, and is in force nowhere else in all the civilized world. It answers no good purpose whatever. Why should not anyone have a correspondence under a fictitious name or initials if the parties are agreed? The main idea of the Post-office is not to indentify persons but to deliver letters. The Post-office is not responsible for any frauds by persons outside of its own walls. If I ask for a letter addressed to A. B. that is fair presumptive evidence that the letter so addressed belongs to me.

SIR,—My attention has been called to an article in your issue for October 16, in which some criticisms are made on the appointment of certain tutors in the High School. It is alleged that they owe their selection chiefly, if not wholly, to the fact that they are graduates of the University of Oxford, and that the claims of others were "quite disregarded," while, it is added, the folly of such proceeding is demonstrated by "the most unsatisfactory of results." So far as these assertions are intended as criticism on the course taken by the Board of School Commissioners, I should have treated them with the silence which is the only fitting reply to anonymous attacks. Willing and anxious as the Board are to give every reasonable explanation of their proceedings to those who ask for it under the responsibility of their names, it is neither possible nor desirable to answer statements which, being without acknowledged authors, are of necessity reduced to the minimum of authority.

Unfortunately, however, the absence of authority in an attack does not deprive it of power to injure individuals. For the sake, therefore, of the gentlemen appointed by the Board, it is right that I should meet the statements made, by a truer account of the facts. This is in direct contradiction to the version of the article in question. It is not true that the appointments were given because the applicants were Oxford graduates; they were given because these gentlemen were believed to be the ablest and most accomplished among the applicants. It is not true that the claims of others were disregarded; on the contrary, they were examined with deliberate and painstaking care. It is not true that the course taken was followed by the "most unsatisfactory of results." So far from that, one of the gentlemen appointed is still with us. And the other, though no longer in the employ of the Board, has left us without the smallest stain on his high personal character, and with our unabated admiration for his many and great accomplishments.

An examination of the lists of those employed by the Board will show a great majority of Canadians. No premium is put upon the graduates of any particular school of learning, and none upon the place of a man's birth. The Board has a difficult task, and is not gifted with the attribute of infallibility, but it consists of men who understand the value of knowledge, and who have, I am certain, only one desire,—namely, to discharge their duty in such a manner as shall best promote the thorough education of that part of our population whose interests are committed to their care.

There is one grain of truth in the charges made, and only one. If two men apply for a vacant place in the gift of the Board—one being an Englishman and the other a Canadian; one being a graduate of a British university and the other of a Canadian seat of learning—we do not reject the better man

simply because he is an immigrant, and give the appointment to the worse simply because he was born in this country; nor can I yet see that any "National Policy" could be a healthy one which induced us to do so.

J. Frederick Stevenson, Chairman P. B. S. C.

This letter is an answer in part. The fact that the writer did not give his name is of no importance. The main question is, first: Has any preference been given to men from the old university? and second, Have the men appointed failed? The first is satisfactorily answered.

The Montreal C. P. R. Company is still making a gallant fight in the City Council against the more reasonable and honest Aldermen who unfortunately form the minority. When one takes note of the general make-up of that majority, it is easy to understand their position. It suits their purpose to promote the interests of the C. P. R. at the expense of the rate-payers, for are they not first of all—well, say contractors, shareholders and men mindful of number one first, and then Aldermen. Who could imagine of them that they would put their Aldermanic duty before their private interests? Who would accuse them of thought and effort to save the tax-payers of to-day and to-morrow? Surely no one who has formed intelligent judgment about them. It is a pitiful spectacle to see the indignant but persevering minority leaving the Council-room time and again rather than allow, or in any way be parties to a crime against the city. But what can we do? The majority in the Council represents the majority of the citizens.

But why in all reason should the C. P. R. Company have a forty year's monopoly? Has it done anything to deserve the confidence of the public? During what period of its existence has it shown even the remotest desire to make progressive effort for the public good? For years and years it has given the city a wretched service—very slow and not even sure; it allows over-crowding to any amount, even to absolute cruelty to horses and people; it put on an extra service during the late exhibition, but visitors to the city went away declaring that Montreal had the worst street car accommodation on all the continent, and not exactly honest in its management; it promised to maintain the quicker service after the exhibition, but a few days after the crowd had departed we were relegated back to the old slow times of travel; it keeps its roads in most wretched repair, and the only act of generosity ever recorded of it is, that magnificent gift of one dollar each it gave to its conductors for the hard extra work they had done during exhibition time. If the members of this company ought to have a further monopoly of our streets and passenger traffic, let the will of the Aldermen be done, and then—the deluge.

A case of a person being put off the train who presented a return ticket a fortnight out of date was reported last week in the telegraph despatches from the West near Toronto, and an action with heavy damages was said to be threatened. Railway tickets are sold subject to certain regulations and conditions printed upon them, and people would save themselves a great deal of annoyance, loss of time and money in fighting Railway Companies, if they would make themselves acquainted with the cases which have been decided in Canada before they assume an hostile position to the Railway Companies and defy their regulations. A single ticket, for which even the full fare that can be exacted by Act of Parliament has been paid, cannot be used after the time limit has expired; the decision of the Court of Appeals, in the action of Livingston *versus* The Grand Trunk, settled that question, and the law in regard to return tickets sold at reduced rates has been also emphatically laid down.