

canoe trip the more usual one with the few Indians that hunt the musk-ox. But, because of the many portages, you cannot travel so rapidly by canoe as on snow-shoes, nor go so far north for the best of the musk-ox hunting, nor see the Barren Grounds at their best or worst, as you care to consider it.—*Harper's Magazine.*

### Official Department.

DISSENT.—The attention of all interested persons is called to the fact that notice of dissent must be served before *the first day of May*, in order to take effect in July 1896.

### Correspondence, etc.

To the Editor of the EDUCATIONAL RECORD,

DEAR SIR,—As a teacher, I have been long of the opinion that the slate should be banished from the school-room. I fail to see any good qualities in it, unless it be the ease with which erasures can be made. This seems to me to be a negative virtue, for the very fact of a slip being so easily rectified without leaving any trace, is conducive to carelessness. In these days, when scribbling paper, as it is called, is so cheap, in my humble opinion it should be used in all our schools to the exclusion of the *noisome slate*. I send you herewith, two clippings, which show that, on the other side of the line, the reformer is on the track of the slate and seems determined to oust it from the class-room.

I wonder if any of our more conservative teachers can adduce anything in its favour. I shall be very much astonished if a champion does not appear from some quarter of the province to defend an "old institution."

Yours, etc.,

ANTI-SLATE.

"The use of slates has been abandoned. In the lowest grades, the pupils write with lead pencil, on paper. Ink is introduced as easily as in the Second Grade. The vertical script has been adopted in all grades. After the first few years, when simple standard forms of letters have been taught, individual differences are permitted to assert themselves. The aim is at plain, legible writing, and individual character."—*Workingman's School, New York.*

A writer in the *San José Mercury* says: "The slate must go. It is noisy, dirty, soon becomes greasy, and consequently the writing upon it is illegible and strains the eyes. There is not enough contrast between the slate and the writing at best to make the use of the slate aught but a menace to the eyesight. Besides, the use of the slate is contrary to sanitary principles. The children use them as cuspidors, their slate rags or sponges