

London Advertiser.

(PUBLISHED BY JOHN CAMERON IN 1893.)

Managing Director John Cameron

London, Tuesday, April 11, 1899.

Our School System Criticised.

Prof. J. C. Robertson, of Victoria University, Toronto, in a paper read before the Ontario Educational Association last week passed some severe strictures on the Ontario school system. The burden of his complaint is that the system is too rigidly uniform, that it gives the same food to all, and represses individuality and independence. These phrases have a familiar ring. They have been repeated, parrot-like, by a clique of politicians who have no license to discuss the philosophy of education at all. If the Ontario school system is to be judged by what it has done for a certain class of its critics, then it stands condemned. Of course, we exempt from this class members of the teaching profession, like Prof. Robertson, and others, who are supposed to be qualified by scholarship to treat the subject intelligently. For this reason one would expect a man in Prof. Robertson's position to mingle with his criticism some practical and helpful ideas of reform or improvement. He makes a vague reference to the secondary schools of England as models to be studied. It is not a good illustration, because the English secondary school system happens to be an object of fierce attack just now. The Government is being urged to lick it into the uniformity which Prof. Robertson deplors in Ontario. It is regarded as being too irregular and disconnected. Prof. Robertson speaks as if he deprecates the whole scheme of state education and he makes some nebulous suggestion in favor of allowing the school system to "grow up from local conditions." He leaves his exact meaning to be guessed at. One might infer that he believes in each municipality or school section devising and managing its own system and adapting the curriculum to "local conditions"—which in most cases would mean the whims and crochets of the local trustees. This plan would certainly break up the present baneful uniformity and produce a beautiful heterogeneity. There would be no lack of individuality—each school would have its own. Independence would flourish, as each school would be independent of the other. There would be no system for critics to attack. Prof. Robertson does qualify his home rule principles by saying that Government inspection would be a check on local regulations, but this is an admission that some system is necessary, but he does not presume to say how much or how little.

An ideal education presupposes an ideal teacher, capable of discovering and developing the special aptitudes of the individual pupil. It is impossible to realize such an ideal when the state undertakes to educate the masses. When every teacher numbers his pupils by the scores and every pupil passes through the hands of at least a dozen teachers, the individual is liable to be subordinated to the class. Doubtless it would be an improvement if the state could afford a private tutor for every child. This is a reductio ad absurdum; but it is just as rational as some of the theories advanced by critics of the Educational Department—theories which cannot be reconciled with any system of popular education. It is true that many of the world's greatest thinkers owed nothing to the schools. Herbert Spencer and the late John Stuart Mill are often cited as modern examples of this truth; but if every youth had the unique advantages of private tuition enjoyed by Mill and Spencer, the schools and colleges could close their doors. How all the children, rich and poor, of any state can be given equal opportunities of education without a state system of schools has never been explained. Prof. Robertson rails against such a system in general terms, but he offers no intelligible substitute or remedy. A little constructive criticism might be appreciated by the Minister of Education, but the attacks of pedants and politicians have hitherto been of one species, without a germ of original suggestion.

An Un-British Spirit.

John Ross Robertson, M. P. for East Toronto, is not a man who in private life can be charged with narrowness, but in politics he sometimes belies his reputation. Take his references to Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper's innuendoes against the character of Major Walsh, of Brockville, late commissioner in the Yukon. Mr. Robertson, in his recent speech in Parliament, is reported as saying:

"As to Major Walsh, Mr. Robertson at first thought his appointment a good one, and while he might have been mistaken, he still hoped he would be able to disprove the charges made against him."

Could anything be more unfair, more contrary to the British idea of justice than such a proposition? A member of Parliament makes certain anonymous charges against a former servant of the Dominion, who had always enjoyed a splendid reputation. Instead of joining in the very fair demand of the Government that the evidence shall be produced, or that a definite charge which can be met shall be made by some responsible person, we have Mr. Ross Robertson alleging that Major Walsh shall be held to be guilty, unless he first establishes his innocence.

This is an attitude of which any man, any party, ought to be ashamed of taking. Why do not Mr. Robertson and his associates demand that the traducers of Major Walsh shall go before Commissioner Ogilvie, Judge Dugas or

any judge of the land, or even on a public platform, and make their accusations like men?

The Canadian Hen.

We quote the following interesting testimonial to the worth of the Canadian hen and her owner from the British Chamber of Agriculture Journal:

"Great improvements have taken place both in quality and magnitude of Canadian importations. The demand exceeds the supply. Great credit is due to the Canadian shippers for the manner in which the eggs are now put up for the British market. The eggs are securely packed in paper in separate compartments. The process is more expensive, but the freedom from breakage, mustiness and other objectionable flavors which arise from straw, wood shavings or sawdust packing more than compensate. So long as we have to import eggs, it is only fair that our own most go-ahead colony should be fully encouraged to send us the best they have, as against continental competitors."

That is a sentiment which the Canadian people will thoroughly appreciate. We have been trying, under the new pro-British policy which the present Government has so happily inaugurated, to make some return to the mother country for all her helpfulness to us, and we are glad to find that these efforts, which displaced a system designed to prevent trade with Great Britain, are being understood by the people of the motherland. The manner in which the egg export trade of Canada has been built up with the old country during the past two years is phenomenal. This comparative statement of exports from the Dominion tells the tale:

Year.	To Great Britain.	To United States.
1896	5,585,725	894,989
1898	10,250,468	38,643

Mayhap when Mr. McKinley put the stiff duty on eggs sent from this country to the United States, he believed that he had killed the industrious Canadian hen. If he did so, the official returns show how much he was mistaken. So it is with other Canadian products. If Canada markets the best, as she is capable of doing, she need never fear for her future. Great Britain will give her the highest market price for all that is sent forward. No doubt our farmers would find it profitable to have the United States market as well, but if our neighbors choose to be exclusive, we can stand it.

Another Honor for Western Ontario.

Among the honors at Queen's University at the convocation on the 28th inst., that of Doctor of Divinity, honoris causa, will be conferred on the Rev. W. G. Jordan, of Strathroy. Mr. Jordan took his B. A. in the first class from London University, England, and is a graduate in honors of the Presbyterian College of the same city. He has for several terms been giving thoughtful and brilliant lectures at Queen's. We are convinced that Rev. Dr. Jordan, as shortly we shall be entitled to call him, will wear worthily and adorn his new title.

The Irish Nationalists appear to be taking home rule on the installment plan.

The French Premier announces that "France is now free for a large field of colonists." France has the field all right, but where are the colonists? Not in France, most assuredly.

The managers of the Paris Figaro have been imprisoned for publishing testimony in the Dreyfus inquiry. This is an instance where, by breaking the law, the Figaro has furthered the ends of justice. The exposure has prepared the public mind for a revision of the Dreyfus case.

Mr. John Charlton, M.P., is going to make an attempt to shut off long-winded speeches in the House. The Tupperts may take it as a personal insult, but we believe Parliament will uphold Mr. Charlton. This is the third week that tongues have been running and business standing still.

The Toronto Star points out that the municipal taxes which the people of Toronto have to pay are higher than those of any of the large cities in the United States, Allegheny, Pa., alone excepted. It is time for the Torontonians, who are generally so ready to give others advice, to set about establishing a municipal home missionary society.

We congratulate Messrs. Eriley & McKay, of the Montreal Herald, upon their acquittal of the charge of libel brought against them by Chief of Police Hughes. The Herald has done a courageous work in exposing the slipshod methods in vogue at the city hall. Several of the departments have been given a shake-up, which has resulted in a decided reform.

While the Americans are wiping out the brown man in Asia, the British are having another tussle with the black man in Africa. The whole job of thrashing the brown, black and red man into submission seems to have been thrown into the hands of the "peaceful" Anglo-Saxon. If it is the decree of Providence that the white man shall rule, then the Anglo-Saxon can flatter himself that Providence considers him the best instrument for the purpose.

The Washington Star will shortly move into magnificent new premises. The building will be constructed of Vermont marble, nine stories in height, with a frontage of 53 feet on Vermont avenue, and 117 feet on Eleventh street. The Star is worthy of a splendid home. It is one of the brightest, cleanest and

most trustworthy newspapers in the United States. It was established 55 years ago, and has built up its prosperity and popularity by keeping the highest standards in view.

The new charter of the city of Montreal has one salutary provision. Under it the city corporation is only liable for the price of work done, merchandise supplied, or goods furnished in the event of the conditions imposed by law being duly observed. This will tend to the protection of the taxpayers. Hitherto, every official has been counted good personally for anything which he liked to order, because it was felt that the city was at his back. Under the new law, if an official orders anything without warrant, the dealer will have to look to him, and not to the city, for payment.

The manufacturer of articles into which iron and steel largely enter, who laid in a stock of the raw material last year, is now in luck. The price of all kinds of iron has gone up, and in recent weeks manufacturers have been refusing contracts that were not at once closed at the old rates. A correspondent gives the following as the advances made in the respective products within the last eighteen months:

Per cent advance.	
71 4-10	Beesmer pig iron
67 2-10	Billets
61 3-10	Copper
74 8-10	Tin
62 7-10	Spelter

The consequence has been an increase in the price of manufactured goods all over the world, though, the makers assert, not to so great an extent as the increased price of the raw material would warrant.

Observations.

I have received the following letter from a reader at Dorchester Station: "Will you kindly answer through the columns of your valuable paper at the earliest date possible the following questions:

"Who succeeded Lord Alfred Tennyson as England's poet laureate?" "How and by whom is the title given?" "Is it a degree or honor conferred on someone by our Queen?" "Is Rudyard Kipling England's laureate at the present? When was the title given to him, or about what date did he receive that honor?"

In answer, I may say the present official laureate is Alfred Austin, a pleasant enough poet, but, of course, many degrees below the status of his predecessor, Alfred Tennyson. The appointment is made in the name of the Queen, but practically by the government of the day. By many the continuance of such an office is ridiculed, but old customs continue long in old countries. As to Rudyard Kipling, if he be not the official laureate of England, he is the unofficial laureate, the uncrowned king, of the whole English-speaking world. He has been variously described as the poet of Greater Britain, the poet of Imperialism, of Expansion, of Democracy.

One of the devices of certain correspondents, when space makes publication of their observations inconvenient, is to send the communication to some other paper, with the portentous preface that it was refused insertion by such and such a newspaper. The inference is drawn to be conveyed is that of unfair treatment, as if the conductor of a newspaper ought not to know best the limitations of his space. It is a device of attempted bullying that influences only the tyro in journalism.

Every now and then I get a communication from some kindly crank, sometimes in and sometimes out of London, railing at the churches for sins of commission or omission—mostly the latter. The churches are not perfect, being made up of imperfect individuals. That can be safely granted. Now, kindly crank, let me ask you this question: In what way does the imperfection of the churches absolve you from the obligation of setting the universe right yourself, if you are so cocksure you know all about how to do it?

Not so very long ago pirates attacked a vessel in the Chinese sea. The crew fled in terror to the rigging, but the captain's wife seized a cutlass, and as the pirates' heads appeared over the vessel's side, she cut them down like weeds, until those remaining re-entered their boats and rowed away.



Diseases that attack women are worse than plagues. They torture long before they kill. But women can beat them off and cut them down with Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. This is a woman's remedy that has no alcohol, opium or other narcotic in it. It is the prescription of Dr. R. V. Pierce, of Buffalo, N. Y., who has devoted a long and successful life to the study and treatment of diseases peculiar to women. It overcomes irregularities, stops disagreeable discharges, cures female weakness and headache. It helps the girl over the difficulties encountered when she enters womanhood; makes the period preceding maternity a time of comfort; and the newborn enters the world without unnecessary pain to the mother. At the "turn of life" it is priceless to womankind. Medicine dealers sell it, and you should never permit them to substitute other medicine which they may urge upon you as "just as good."

"I had been a great sufferer from female weakness," writes Mrs. M. B. Wallace, of Manchester, Cooke Co., Texas. "I tried four doctors and none did me any good. I suffered six years, but at last I found relief. I followed your advice, and took four bottles of 'Golden Medical Discovery,' and eight of the 'Favorite Prescription.' I now feel like a new woman. I have gained eighteen pounds."

In paper covers, 31 one-cent stamps; cloth binding, 50 stamps. Dr. R. V. Pierce, Medical Adviser. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

Phone 1046.

THE RUNIANS, GRAY, CARRIE CO.

Phone 1046

Dress Goods and Silks.

The goodness of this store must necessarily be in matters of detail. Every word in the small type that follows has a value for you if you have any Dress Goods need unfilled. These are new goods for present season's selling. We assist you this way:

Black Dress Goods.

AT 50C PER YARD—We will give you a full assortment of Fancy Blacks in many styles, none worth less than 65c to 75c.

AT 75c PER YARD YOU CAN SEE the handsome raised weaves in all the new, small, medium or large designs. These goods would be cheap at \$1 per yard.

AT \$1 PER YARD—We show the most handsome and largest assortment, in silk and wool, also bluster designs in beautiful raised effects, cheap at \$1.25; our price, per yard, \$1.

AT \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2 AND \$2.50 PER YARD we show an assortment, unequalled elsewhere, beautiful silk and mohair, bluster designs. New designs just received.

Priestley's Poplins.

AT 50C AND 75C—All wool poplin, Priestley's celebrated cords, beautiful hand finish, at per yard, 50c and 75c.

AT \$1 AND \$1.25—All wool Poplins, 46-inch Priestley's Black, noted for their superior dyeing of blacks, beautiful raised cords.

BLACK LUSTERS—We show a complete range of these bright Mohair Goods, beautiful glossy finish, at per yard, 25c, 40c, 50c and \$1.

Silks.

BLACK SATIN MARVELLEUX—21-INCH—Double face, all pure silk, wear guaranteed at, per yard, 75c and \$1.

BLACK "PEAU DE SOIE"—21-INCH—Wonderful value, reversible, wear guaranteed, at, per yard, 75c and \$1.

BLACK SATIN—21-INCH—Our noted blue edge, wonderful bright finish, at, per yard, 50c.

BLACK SATIN—24-INCH—Our noted cerise edge, good value at 90c; we sell at, per yard, 75c.

BLOUSE SILKS—In all the new colors, stripes, plaids and fancy checks, at, per yard, 50c, 75c, \$1 to \$1.50. All bright, new colors, and the latest designs.

FRENCH FOULARD SILKS—In blue, black, green, and all the new colorings in polka dots, stripes and floral designs for dress and shirt waists, at, per yard, 50c, 60c and 75c.

PLAIN TAFFETTA SILKS—20 to 22 inch, in all the new tints of cerise, cherry red, stone blue, azure, and new green, wonderful values, at, per yard, 50c, 65c and 85c.

Colored Suitings.

44-INCH ALL WOOL—Covert Suitings in all the leading colors, at, per yard, 50c.

44-INCH ALL WOOL POPLIN—In every new shade, beautiful quality, at, per yard, 50c and 75c.

46-INCH POPLIN—The Best. All the colors the newest, worth 95c, at, per yard, 85c.

45-INCH WHIP CORD—Also Venetian Amazon Suiting, in every shade, worth 95c to \$1, at, per yard, 85c.

48-INCH PIRLE SUITING—Also Priestley's Victoria Suiting. Worsted, in all the new tints; beautiful goods, at, per yard, \$1 and \$1.25.

LADIES' BROADCLOTH SUITINGS—In black, navy, brown, and all the new odd tints of green and fawn, 54-inch, with beautiful Venetian finish, at, per yard, \$1 and \$1.25.

LADIES' BOX CLOTHS—Weights suitable for spring jackets, in the new drab and fawn tints; Venetian finish, at, per yard, \$1.25, \$1.50 and \$2.50.

LADIES' CLOTH SUITINGS—A very special line of Venetian finish cloth for tailor-made suits; all wool, 44-inch, in all new shades, at, per yard, 50c.

The Runians, Gray, Carrie Co.

208, 210, 210½, 212 DUNDAS STREET.

What Others Say.

Misfortune and Fault.

[Toronto Telegram.] The Ontario Opposition's lack of ability as a misfortune, but its lack of public enthusiasm is a fault.

Great Britain's Chance.

[Detroit News.] Great Britain could hardly give a greater proof of her friendship than by trading her West Indies for our revolution.

A Sure Test.

[Hamilton Herald.] The Herald promises to admit the truth of Christian Science if any Christian Scientist will kindly call at this office and demonstrate that truth by swallowing half an ounce of strychnine without incurring unpleasant consequences.

Light and Shade.

Our Own.

Outward things are not in my power, to will is in my power. Where shall I seek the good, and where the evil? Within me,—in all that is my own.—Epictetus.

Force of Habit.

"Have you no mercy?" she shrieked. "No," hissed the villainous drug clerk, "but," he murmured absently, "we have something just as good."—New York Journal.

His Private Opinion.

Mrs. Homespun (suspiciously)—I wonder why Henny's college diploma is writ in Latin, Josiah? Mr. Homespun (grimly)—Wal, Sarah, to tell you the truth, I think the professors have got 'suthin' to say about Henry in that diploma that they don't want us to know about.—Puck.

Prudence.

The old saw says, "Let a sleeping dog lie." Right. Still, when there is much at stake it is better to get a newspaper to do it.—Pudd'nhead Wilson.

Wise Precaution.

"Why do you say that you will marry only a widow?" "Well, I think it is the part of wisdom to get someone who has already discovered that men are not angels."

EPPS'S COCOA

GRATEFUL COMFORTING
Distinctly everywhere for
Delicacy of Flavor, Superior
Quality, and Nutritive Properties.
Specially adapted for the nervous and
dyspeptic. Sold only in 1-lb
tins, labeled JAMES EPPS &
CO., Limited, Homeopathic
Chemists, London, England.

BREAKFAST SUPPER

EPPS'S COCOA

APOL & STEEL PILLS

A REMEDY FOR IRREGULARITIES
Superseding Bitter Apple, Pil Cochia,
Pennyroyal, etc.
Order of all Chemists, or post free for \$1.30 from
EVANS & SONS, LIMITED,
Montreal, Que., Toronto, Ont., and Victoria,
B.C., or
MARTIN, Pharmaceutical Chemist, Southampton.

Railways and Navigation

CPR + CPR + CPR + CPR + CPR + CPR

CANADIAN PACIFIC RY.

CPR Travelling Comfort

Furnished Tourist Sleeper
leaves TORONTO at 8:15 p.m. on
Tuesday and Saturday, and North
Bay at 1:15 p.m. on Thursday of
each week, and runs through to
the Pacific Coast.

Passengers holding first or second class tickets to the Canadian Northwest or Pacific Coast may, on small additional cost, hold accommodation in a Tourist Sleeper.

Write for "Travelling Comfort," the Tourist Sleeper Booklet.
C. E. MCPHERSON, Asst. Gen. Pass. Agent, 1 King street east,
CPR Toronto.
THOS. B. PARKER, City Pass. Agent, 161 Dundas street, corner
CPR of Richmond.

CPR + CPR + CPR + CPR + CPR + CPR

MICHIGAN CENTRAL

"The Niagara Falls Route."

Now Issuing Tickets at Following Rates.

Kootenay (Single second-class fare, \$38.80
Points, (Return first-class fare, \$76.55

British Columbia (Single second-class fare, \$41.30
Oregon and Washington (Return first-class fare, \$76.55
Points, (Single second-class fare, \$49.50

California (Single second-class fare, \$49.50
Points, (Single second-class fare, \$49.50

For further information call at City Ticket Office, 366 Richmond street.

JOHN PAUL, City Passenger Agent.
O. W. RUGGLES, Gen. Pass. and Tkt. Agt.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY SYSTEM

On and After March 15

The following second-class rate will be in effect, and tickets issued from London to

Seattle \$41.30
Tacoma
Vancouver
Victoria
Portland, Ore.
And Kootenay Points.....

Proportionate rates from other stations. For further information apply to agents G. T. Railway System.

E. DE LA HOOKE, M. C. DICKSON,
Q. P. and T. A., London, Dist. Pass. Agt.

Railways and Navigation

Intercolonial Railway

OF CANADA

The direct Route between the West and all points on the Lower St. Lawrence and Lake des Chaleurs, Province of Quebec; also for New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward and Cape Breton Islands, Newfoundland and St. Pierre.

Express trains leave Montreal and Halifax daily (Sunday excepted) and run through without change between these points.

The through express train cars of the Intercolonial Railway are brilliantly lighted by electricity, and heated by steam from the locomotive, thus greatly increasing the comfort and safety of travelers.

Comfortable and elegant buffet, sleeping and day cars are run on all through express trains. The popular summer sea bathing and fishing resorts of Canada are all along the Intercolonial, or are reached by this route.

Canadian-European Mail and Passenger Route.

Passengers for Great Britain and the Continent can leave Montreal Tuesday morning and join outward Mail Steamers at St. John on Wednesday, or they can leave Montreal on Wednesday morning and join outward Mail Steamers at Halifax on Thursday.

The attention of shippers is directed to the superior facilities offered by this route for the transport of flour and general merchandise intended for the Eastern Provinces, Newfoundland and the West Indies; also for shipments of grain and produce intended for the European markets, either by way of St. John or Halifax. Tickets may be obtained and all information about the route, also freight and passenger rates, on application to

A. H. HARRIS, General Traffic Manager, Board of Trade Building, Montreal.

D. POTTINGER, General Manager, Railway Office, Moncton, N.B., May 21, 1897.

WHITE STAR LINE

REDUCED

First and Second

Cabin Fares

NOW IN FORCE.

For further information apply to

EDWARD DE LA HOOKE

SOLE AGENT FOR LONDON.

Office—"Clock" corner Richmond and Dundas

ALLAN LINE.

First Cabin Fares

Reduced.

London agents, E. De la Hooke, T. R. Parker and F. B. Clarke.