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BEWARE OF IMITATIONS

The Free Press,

LONDON, ONT.

Saturday, July 27, 1889.

A REMEDY REQUIRED.

The pupils attending the public schools are just now enjoying their summer vacation, and we cordially wish them a happy time. They need these holidays. It is the only part of the year in which they are free from the strain of sustained study imposed by our much-vaunted system of education. With the provisions made for the free education of Canadian children no fault is to be found. Those provisions are ample and rest on a liberal basis, at once the boast of our own people and the admiration of nations less favorably equipped. With the paternal operations of that system, however, there are many thoughtful men who find grave fault. They allege that the competitive plan, by which all the gradations are made, is carried to an extreme most calamitous in its results, both upon the minds and bodies of the pupils. Good judgment dictates that precocity in children should be met by a policy of judicious restraint, if the vital functions of the body are to be kept superior to the distinctly nervous or mental forces. That is to say, the boy who exhibits high mental qualities early in life is in particular need of a robust body, if these happy endowments are to be made available in the battle of life. In the operations of our public school system, however, the highest premium is put on such special faculties, and instead of that restraint which good sense indicates as the better course, there is the greatest possible stimulation for such a boy to do his best. Now, there is no division of opinion among the learned physicians who have given special attention to the matter, as to the result which must follow upon such a course with a boy in whom the nervous or mental predominates over the vital or physical forces. It means disaster; a useless life; disappointment; and premature decay. Parents may feel a pardonable joy over the achievements of their boy at school; his name will certainly be published in the promotion lists, and he may win the chief prizes. Prizes are only useful to tempt the laggard in whom the vital overrules the mental; they are a curse to the precocious. If, then, at the end of school days, it be found that the boy is incapable of taking his place in the stirring arena of everyday life, because he is a physical wreck, what matters it that he made such a splendid showing at school? His diploma or special prizes will only mock him. In the meantime, the boy who has escaped the allurements of the promotion list and who, by reason of a free use of bat and ball in the open air, or any other form of wholesome exercise, has built up a vigorous constitution, is able to take his place in life under favorable circumstances. It is true he was not a prizeman; but he managed to acquire a good elementary education, and is now able to turn it to the best account without danger of wrecking either his nerves or his body. If this be a true picture then a remedy is called for. The complainants against this phase of our educational system are both numerous and eminent. Dr. Emmett, of New York, one of the highest living authorities on the diseases of women, sets forth his objections to the competitive school plan in language as clear as it is alarming. In his widely read work on gynecology he says that he has come to look upon this hot house, nerve exciting, brain wearing plan of education as the direct cause of more than half the diseases among American women. In the wear and tear of life the fruits are reaped of a system which unites all efforts to force the mind while overlooking the body which alone can sustain that mind in after life. A candle burning at both ends will soon be consumed. The wholesale cramming of young minds to meet the ordeal of approaching examinations goes on from week to week without regard to the consequences, or the relative capabilities of the subjects. To gain a place often involves the sacrifice of hours for sleep, to say nothing about play. Let anyone who doubts the accuracy of these statements visit our Collegiate Institute, or the senior rooms of the grade schools, and see children of eleven, twelve or thirteen years of age plodding over algebra, geometry, classics and the intricacies of English grammar. Let him judge how well the development of body is keeping pace with that of the brain. This is wrong, criminally wrong. Parents should look into the matter and lend the weight of their influence against a system in which all effort is stimulated by competition, and all promotions made conditional upon the outcome of examinations. For the present it is only needful that an alarm should be sounded, and when the warning has been heeded the remedy will come.

Truth is mighty, but she is ignominiously worsted when she encounters a fishing excursion.

THE ROYAL SHOW.

The greatest agricultural show in the world recently came to a close at Windsor, the seat of one of the Queen's residences. For half a century this society has been in existence, and has been patronized by royalty—indeed, several members of the reigning house, including the Prince of Wales, have been Presidents of the society. This year the President-elect is Lord Moreton, an enthusiastic worker in agricultural affairs. But it should not be inferred from this that royalty and nobility are the only favored ones for official positions, inasmuch as some plain citizens have occupied the highest positions in the society. This royal show, in all the various branches, is worked with clock-like precision, especially in the arrangement and judging of live stock. As far as possible the judging is got through with in the early part of the show, so that the crowd can see without interruption the prize stock and other exhibits. There is no show in the world that exhibits such a choice collection of cattle, sheep, horses, pigs, cereals, implements and everything pertaining to agriculture as the "Royal." It is a matter of surprise to foreigners who visit this exhibition how England could have produced so many distinct breeds of all domestic animals, and that her breeders should have had the skill to develop them without the aid of foreign blood to such a degree of perfection. The Windsor Show has increased this interest; and it need only be added that the "Royal" was attended by a large number of Canadians and Americans, who are interested in the advancement and improvement of our live stock. England is a perpetual fountain to which all countries look for the improvement of their stock, especially this side of the Atlantic. England with her Royal show is the wonder of the world, as nowhere has agriculture in all its branches come to such perfection as there. Royalty has taken a great interest in agriculture and given it a stimulus, and at Windsor are found the Royal farm, with their broad acres and well tilled lands, which are held up as models of advanced husbandry. The great interest taken in these agricultural exhibitions in England may be gleaned from the fact that half a crown (60 cents) and five shillings (\$1.20) were the cheapest rates of admission, and it is said that thousands of people in the metropolis, of all classes, thronged the grounds at these rates. The Royal was a great success, and drew people, especially breeders, from all parts of the world. Several prominent Canadian and American breeders made extensive purchases of cattle, horses, sheep and pigs. The entries in these exceeded any previous year, and the prizes paid for foreigners for prize animals was something exorbitant. The Royal has shown that the agricultural and manufacturing situation of England was never in a better condition than now.

ALIEN LABOR.

A despatch from Ottawa states that the recent enforcement of the U. S. alien labor law against Canadians at Alexandria Bay has been withdrawn. For years it has been the custom on both sides of the St. Lawrence river to exchange labor, when it was called for. But the local authorities at this particular point sought this year to construe the U. S. law against foreign laborers under contract to the disadvantage of Canadian citizens living on the river side, some of whom go to the hotels for work of various kinds. Mr. Taylor, M. P., took the matter up warmly, and proposed a little "reciprocity" in that form of intercourse. Our law, which prohibits foreigners fishing in Canadian waters without a license, would have been put in operation, the freedom with which the Americans have landed from their yachts and sailing vessels on Canadian territory—and every visitor to the Thousand Islands knows that those which belong to Canada are the most picturesque of the group of 1,800—would have been gone. The residents of Alexandria Bay who rely for a livelihood solely on the summer visitors, saw that their business was going to be injured with the result as above indicated.

A similar case is under consideration in respect of the sardine fishery. It seems that some Canadians have been working at the canning factories of Eastport and Lubec, in Maine, just across the border from New Brunswick. These have received the walking ticket under the alien labor law, which is said to be "unmercifully enforced." It is curious to note that all, or nearly all, of the sardines used in the Eastport sardine canneries are taken in Canadian waters. They are not really sardines at all, but young herring, which are put down in tins with French lettering in imitation of the genuine article which comes from France. Occasionally the young herring are taken on the United States shore, but this seldom happens, the reliance of the canneries being on the catch in New Brunswick waters. Now, inasmuch as the Canadian fishery over-seers report that the herring fishery is falling off, while the "sardine" fishery continues to flourish, it might be well for the Government to inquire into the state of those fisheries and their relation to each other. In one year over 50,000 hogheads of these little fish have been taken in Passamaquoddy Bay alone. If the sardine fishery is allowed to go on, perhaps means might be found to have these little fish cured also on Canadian territory, thus providing double employment for our people, where the United States alien labor law does not operate.

According to all indications the subscription for the shares of the North America Salt Co. has been unsuccessful. The managers state that it will take some time to calculate the results from some points. They promise a statement soon.

THE TAXATION GRIEVANCE.

"A significant movement" is the way in which the *American Rural* describes an agitation among the farmers of New York State for tax reform. It has been the habit of some of our politicians, in the endeavor to foster a spirit of discontent in Canada, to picture in gloomy terms the so-called grievous burdens borne by the farmers of this country. But we have only to cross over the border to find a far worse state of things. A memorial address by representatives of the Farmers' Union, of New York, sets forth that "the farming lands of the State have actually decreased in value in the last ten years more than 25 per cent, largely in consequence of increased and unjust taxation." The amount of State taxes voted this year by the Legislature is twelve millions.

CURRENT TOPICS.

The Rev. William Wyatt Gill, for over twenty years a missionary in Raratonga and that neighborhood, tells of a peculiar class of reptiles he has encountered among the islands. These snakes coil themselves up when rain is coming on, collect water in the coils, and thus form a fatal drinking place, to which unsuspecting birds are attracted to assuage their thirst, and thus fall easy victims to the wily serpent. Talking of snakes, Dr. Gason, writing from the Baths of Lucca, in Italy, recounts a curious fact related to him by a friend in India. This is to the effect that pigs in India delight in eating snakes. The doctor's informant states that "he has often witnessed two pigs rush on a large cobra and catch it, one by the tail and the other by the head, and so devour it until the heads meet in the centre."

The Chignecto Ship railway, at the Tignish end of the line, now under the supervision of McDonald & Dawson, is making rapid progress. They have on the road at the present time three hundred men and eighty horses. The steam shovel is doing good work. It removes between three and four hundred carloads of gravel a day, which is carried away by a locomotive to the shore, where they are extended two arms or embankments out into the bay. These arms, after they have run parallel for about 150 yards, commence to converge, coming so near each other so as just to allow a ship to enter the basin formed by these two embankments. Within this basin will be constructed the hydraulic lift. Immediately outside this basin there will be a breakwater, which will extend seaward for thousands of feet. They are now busy putting in crib work for this structure.

A practical Scotsman, Mr. Donald McDonald, seems to have improved upon M. Pasteur's rabbit-destroying process, having hit upon a simple, but apparently effective, plan for the extermination of the pest. Without any mistake, the poor bunnies appear to "roll over and die on the spot" as soon as possible after making acquaintance with the specific invented by Mr. McDonald. An experiment was made in the presence of a Crown Lands Inspector. A good "rabbit" spot was selected, where several long and shallow furrows were ploughed in close proximity to the rabbit burrows. Along these silted apples were plentifully distributed, and it was found on the following morning that they had all been eaten. The next evening more apples, but with poison sprinkled upon them, were placed in the furrows, and on the following morning 276 dead rabbits were found. The total cost of the experiment was 25-6d, which included 12s for the labor of a man for two days, 3s for the ploughing, 3s for apples and 5s 6d for poison. This would, roughly speaking, show that the objectionable bunnies can be removed at a penny per head.

The struggle between the High Church and Low Church parties on a point of fundamental importance has come to a rest for the time. For a long period it has been the desire of the Ritualists to obtain the creation of a court for the determination of religious questions, which should be more in accord with their ideas than the one in existence now. At present disputes arising from the Church go to the courts of law. "These," said Canon Gregory, in the debate in the recent Convocation, "make the doctrine of the Church, and a more destructive thing could not occur." A few months ago, however, the Dean of Windsor asked the High Church party to define its plan for another final court. A plan was devised which received the approval of the Lower House. It proposed two final courts, of equal numbers, one of Bishops and one of Judges. If both courts agreed on a disputed question, their decision governed. If they failed to agree the decision of the court below, necessarily a Church court, would stand. That would in effect have taken all control of doctrine away from the State. But when this scheme was submitted recently the House was equally divided on it, standing 42 to 42. In the opinion of one member, "it passes the wit of man to devise a court of appeal which would satisfy all the conflicting interests." A somewhat startling statement was made during the debate by Canon Gregory. He said that three applicants for parishes had appeared before the Bishop of London who could not accept the doctrine of the Resurrection. "Could this proposed court of Judges and Bishops be trusted to define the doctrine of the Resurrection? No." So finally the Dean of Windsor's semi-challenge was unanswered, and the English court of religious appeal remains as it was.

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NEW FALL GOODS

R. S. Murray & Co. received to-day first portion of their fall goods.

New Prints, New Embroidered Dresses, New Cashmere, New Parisian Dress Goods, New Flannels, New Cretone, New Ladies' Hose, New Black Silk, New Dress Trimming, New Lusters, New Madras Curtains, New Ecru Curtains, New Fingering Yarns, New N. B. Flannels, New M. C. Flannels, New Cretone Fringe, New Embroideries, New Children's Hose, New French Kid Gloves, New Corsets.

The following Summer Goods will be sold at prices to clear:

Parasols, 25c. up, Ladies' Hats, 25c. Men's Hats, 5c.

We always keep on hand the largest stock of general Dress Goods in the west.

We are daily receiving large shipments of Carpets, House Furnishings at prices in favor of purchasers.

We have also received large portion of our Ready-made Clothing for fall trade. Please call and examine before purchasing.

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Notice to Dealers.

We are direct importers of the above goods. Our house is noted as carrying the largest assortment in the Dominion of Canada. Our assortment this year is larger than ever. Our travellers will be early on the road. It will be profitable for all dealers to hold their orders till they have inspected our line.

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FOR HOT WEATHER IS

MONTERRAT

Pure Lime-Fruit Juice.

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The effect is peculiarly satisfying; it quenches thirst, leaving a grateful sense of cleanliness and freshness in the mouth, is very palatable and perfectly pure and wholesome.

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In the recent art examinations Alma won 116 Provincial Certificates, including Four Full Advanced Certificates, the only four granted in the Province, also Two Gold Medal Certificates and Six Full Prizes.

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small	9¢ @ 00	GEESSE, old, full feathered, per doz.	5 00 @ 00
ROOSTERS, old	45¢ @ 00	young	4 00 @ 00
young	40¢ @ 00	BUTTER, fresh, in rolls, per lb.	90¢ @ 00

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