

What Canadian Editors Think

BOOKS VS. BROOKS.

(Halifax Herald.)

THE schools of Nova Scotia are only now closing—in the first week of July. Have the fathers and mothers of the province bethought themselves of the fact and of what it implies? We have already had a month of summer, and two months of beautiful out-of-door weather, of which every normal living being craves the enjoyment—the young most of all. During those months our children have been confined from nine in the morning until four in the afternoon, mostly in dingy, dirty, ill-smelling school-rooms, cleaned quarterly at the best, once in years or never at the worst. The birds have been singing and nesting in the trees; the lambs have been frisking in the fields; the flowers have been blooming freely during all the long bright days of these two months, inviting and almost compelling to the open air.

But the school children of Nova Scotia have been rigorously confined and driven to work.

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TRAIN THE HAND.

(St. John Sun.)

WE hear much, these material days, of the value of manual training in the public schools, much of the necessity of providing boys and girls with instruction which will prove of practical use to them in their imminent task of earning a living. And it is good and sensible talk. None will decry the benefit of training the youthful hand and eye as well as the purely mental processes. In the efficient development of technical instruction lies one of the most important problems before present day educationists. But the value of education is not all in its practical side, in its possible conversion into future dollars and cents; and there may be danger that in considering too closely the utilitarian feature of public school training we may lose sight of something of greater value.

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CROPS AND THE IDLE.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

IT is estimated that the help of 25,000 Eastern Canadians will be required to enable the West to take off the great crop that is now advancing so prosperously towards maturity. If the West has a crop of such magnitude, Eastern Canada ought to have a hum of industry that will make it difficult to spare the 25,000 men. Suppose the West has 125,000,000 bushels of good wheat to dispose of as the fruit of its next harvest. How can the manufacturing towns and cities of Eastern Canada afford to let men go to take off that harvest? It will require all our artisans' and mechanics' labour to produce enough merchandise to satisfy the demand our farmers will present when they get their grain and other staples sold and come on the market with the proceeds as buyers. If the West has a grand crop, as the prospects promise, and as everybody hopes, and if the present bright agricultural outlook in Ontario does not prove disappointing, the ranks of the unemployed should be speedily thinned. That they will be thinned to the vanishing point may be regarded as a certainty, but the disappearance of the unemployed should be almost complete now.

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ALL IN THE POINT OF VIEW.

(Montreal Star.)

AS the Northwest authorities are learning, there is nothing more difficult to deal with than the religious fanatic. He cannot be frightened; he

cannot be reasoned with; he cannot be treated as a criminal. His intentions are usually of the best; but his methods are anti-social. If he did not disturb the rest of us, we might safely let him alone; but when he comes armed with Winchesters and insists upon turning our fences into firewood, society must protect itself. Still sympathy will always exist for people who are insane on the religious side. The genial Doukhobors simply want to live in their own way; but it so happens that their styles in clothing are regarded as anti-social, and society cannot allow it. Yet there was a time when Christianity itself was regarded by organised society as anti-social, and was subjected to the cruel punishments of the age. Society makes mistakes as well as fanatics do; and this is what gives us pause when it is proposed to deal harshly with the religiously insane.

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THE EAST SIMPLY CAN'T PLAY CRICKET.

(Victoria Times.)

CANADA plays a cricket match with the United States annually, and generally is soundly beaten. Most of the players on the American international cricket team are chosen from amongst the gentlemen players of Philadelphia, because the Quaker City is the home of cricket in the United States. The Canadians on the international team are chosen principally from Toronto, for what reason we do not know, certainly not because the Ontario capital is the home of cricket in this country. This Canadian international cricket team is seldom or never representative of the cricket talent of the country. That is one reason why Canada has not won a game in many years. Nor is there any likelihood of its winning until a change is made in the system of selection. In Victoria there is a cricket club capable of placing a side in the field that could defeat, we believe with ease, a team of any representative club in the East. There are several finished batsmen and some good bowlers now playing in Victoria. Yet only once that we are aware of has the Victoria Club been honoured with representation upon the Canadian international cricket team.

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CROPS AND CURRENCY.

(Manitoba Free Press.)

CANADA has learned to fear financial panics in Wall Street. In fact, that financial centre is watched very closely by other national centres. Canada, however, being the nearest neighbour of the United States, feels more quickly than European countries any crisis that arises there. This is particularly the case with financial affairs, because Canada does so much of its international banking through New York houses. Any measure of the United States Government that has for its object the averting of financial panics in its monetary centres will, if successful in achieving its purpose, be of advantage to Canada. To a very large extent the financial troubles of Canada have their origin in those of her neighbour. Last year the difficulties with regard to the moving of the crop arose through New York's failure to perform those services customarily rendered. The panic conditions which placed New York in that position are to be averted if the new currency legislation fulfils the hopes of its promoters. The fulfilment of these hopes will mean also better and more efficient services on the part of the Canadian institutions.

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