

"There is just one other point which it may be well to mention, as it is one of which we fear a good many persons in Canada are ignorant. It is not either to Ontario or to the Maritime Provinces that the people of the Dominion are indebted for the place which their country occupies in the greatest work which has ever been devoted to the cause of educational progress. We mean the *Encyclopædie desgesamnten Erziehungs und Unterrichts-wesens*, edited by Dr. Schmidt, of Stuttgart, the greatest of modern writers on the history and methods of education. This immense work, the "Encyclopedia of Education and Instruction," a new edition of which is issued every ten years, is published by the firm of Besser, at Gotha. During his comprehensive educational tour, in 1867, through the chief countries of Europe, the Hon. Mr. Chauveau became acquainted with Dr. Schmidt, who deeply regretted that the information which he received from his Canadian guest and fellow-worker in the cause of education was too late for the edition of the *Encyclopædie*, which was then approaching its completion. The next best thing was to ensure the insertion of an article on Public Instruction in Canada which should be worthy of the subject in the succeeding issue. This, accordingly, Mr. Chauveau undertook to furnish. Although the enterprise entailed no ordinary labour and research, he possessed greater facilities for the task than any one else, as well from the position which he had so long and so honorably filled as from his rare gifts as a writer. When his manuscript arrived at Stuttgart, and before the translation into German was commenced, the publishers were at first unwilling to allow Canada so much space. But Mr. Chauveau remained firm and Dr. Schmidt yielded. Thus it comes that "Canada" occupies no less than sixty-seven pages in the great Encyclopedia of Combined Education and Instruction, being, in this respect, on a footing with all the great countries of civilization. And for this honour the Dominion is indebted to the Province of Quebec."

As to the *boarding round* system denounced by the Educational Monthly, we will not pretend to defend it: the system is a bad one, and the sooner it dies out the better; it has been brought about by exceptional circumstances which the Ontario people have not to contend against, and which they do not understand, but at the same time we can say that the statement of the Monthly that it "extends over a large area of even 'the oldest and richest counties of the Eastern Townships'" is very much exaggerated, cases are few and far between, and the practice is totally unknown among the French Canadian inhabitants of this Province.

Obituary.

Our readers have already heard with regret of the demise of Dr. Meilleur. This distinguished gentleman died in Montreal on Saturday the 7th of December last, on the very day when he was to have been publicly honored with the decoration of Academical palm with the title of "Officer of Public Instruction. This flattering mark of appreciation came from the French Government as one of the results of the Educational Exhibition of this Province at Paris.

Dr. Meilleur was born at St. Laurent, near Montreal,

on the 9th May 1796. Having finished his classical course in Montreal College, he studied medecine at Castletown in Vermont State and there received his Medical Diplomas in 1825. In 1834 he was Editor of "L'Echo du Pays" and was elected to Parliament. His career was ever that of a good man and faithful servant of his country.

To Dr. Meilleur was confided the difficult task of putting the school laws of 1841 into execution. The history of these school laws must be well known; still the rising generation would scarcely conceive what opposition this law, met with in the country places. Open rebellion incendiarism, and persecutions of all kinds, were the means of resistance suggested by a class of men whom the press speedily dubbed "extinguishers". Yet this law is still the present basis of the system in actual use. The Superintendent showed an energy and perseverance worthy of all praise and was ably seconded by the Roman Catholic clergy and the greater number of educated men. The clergy published circulars interfering directly in the matter, and the Bishop of Montreal went so far as to interdict one of the refractory parishes.

Dr. Meilleur rose triumphant over all these obstacles, and the name of our first Superintendent will not be easily forgotten in the history of this province. The "Memorial de l'Education" is a work which can always be consulted with benefit, and in Dr. Meilleur's circulars will be found the seed whence sprung the rich harvest which during twenty years we have reaped in the field of public instruction.

Honours.

Our readers will no doubt be pleased to hear an account of the honours conferred by the French Government on the Honble. Mr. Ouimet, Superintendent of Public Instruction for the Province of Quebec, Dr. Meilleur, the Honourable Mr. Chauveau, and on Mr. Archambault, the worthy superintendent of Catholic Schools, Montreal. The International Jury awarded diplomas for the Educational Exhibit of the Province of Quebec; but Mr. Bardoux, Minister of Public Instruction in France, wished to give to those who had brought our educational system to its present high position, a particular mark of esteem and distinction as will appear by the following letter:

Paris, 15th november, 1878.

To the Honble. Gédéon Ouimet, D. C. L.,

Sir,

I feel much pleasure in informing you that you have been raised to the rank of "Officer of Public Instruction" by Mr. Bardoux, Minister of Public Instruction. I am happy to tell you that Mr. Chauveau and Dr. Meilleur has also been granted the same decoration. Finally your very humble servant has been made an