THE TIMES

MEDICINE HAT - - ALBERTA.

W. LACEY AMY, Editor and Proprietor.

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The Day of The Child.

(By Elaine Goodale Eastman.)

This is the Day of the Child:
Lo, on the threshold he stands
Pleading for life at our hands:
Into man's likeness beguiled,
Sweetly our all he demands—
This is the Day of the Child!

Come, let us welcome the Child—
Humble our hearts to believe,
Give, with no care to receive,
Love, with a love undefiled:
Why should we question or grieve?
Come, let us live for the Child:

Language About Languages.

A couple of weeks ago we promised to give the readers of The Times some figures that would show up the remarks of the chairman of the school board, that "someone has to be kicking at something." It is gratifying to know that the remainder of the board does not try to dismiss such an important subject without consideration. At the school board meeting on Monday Mr. Niblock brought the matter up, but it was again dismissed by the chairman until there was more accommodation, or more money or more something or other.

Almost no search has brought to light sufficient local instances to show that, if the chairman of the school board really believes the fact that only one request had been made to him for languages, was sufficient to prove they were not wanted, he was not keeping in close enough touch with things educational.

In the first place, not one student in ten knows, at such an early age, the necessity of languages for the majority of courses. Not one-half of that small proportion bothers his head about it or would demand it anyway; and not one-tenth of that smaller number would think of going to the school board with the request. If the chairman thinks that only one student has demanded languages he had better ask the man to whom such requests are naturally taken—Mr. Pentland. The Times is informed on good authority that almost a dozen requests were made this year.

Concerning the sending away of students, The Times can name at least one pupil whose parents say they will have to send him away this year on account of languages not being taught here. It can also tell the names of three or four more who have been forced to leave the city in the past, in order to matriculate, a step that would not have been necessary had languages been taught in this school.

Apart from the specific instances of inability to supply local demand, the best idea of how many would take languages if they were taught, is obtained from the existing conditions in other schools of the same kind in Alberta. The chairman objected to comparing Medicine Hat high school with those of Calgary and Edmonton. While there is not much force in such an objection, since the quality of education required in those cities is no higher than here, we will nevertheless, confine ourselves to smaller cities.

Lethbridge, we claim, is somewhat smaller than Medicine Hat; and Strathcona is not half the size of this city. Under the argument of comparison of cities used by the chairman, Medicine Hat should be out of the same class as Strathcona. Here are some interesting figures:

Lethbridge high school (or what will be a high school under new legislation) teaches three standards, not two, as stated by the chairman at the meeting. The enrollment is:

Standard VIII.—9.
Standard VII.—13.
Standard VI.—23.

And of these no fewer than 36 take Latin, and 39 French; and all these out of a total of 45.

Strathcona has a total enrollment of 62, divided as follows:

Standard VIII.—7.
Standard VII.—14.
Standard VI.—42.

Of these 48 take Latin; 40 French; and 10 German.

Take Latin for instance—the language that is necessary to fit a boy for any profession. In Lethbridge 80 per cent. have selected that language and in Strathcona the per centage is almost exactly the same. And yet, this city of Medicine Hat has to advertise itself as unable to cater to the wants of 80 per cent. of its high school students. This, too, does not include French or German, which may embrace all the students in attendance.

A condition which seems to frighten the school board is the presence of only two high school teachers. This is, of course, unfortunate, but it simply shows another instance of oversight on the part of the board, as Medicine Hat should be as well provided for as the other high schools mentioned.

However, is it impossible for two teachers to supply a couple of languages, say Latin and French, as in Lethbridge? If the board could see more distinctly the necessity of it, The Times thinks it could be done, especially as there is a third teacher in the schools who could teach French.

It is probable that the matter will be brought more vividly before the board within the next few weeks.

The school board is not paid for its work and it has a job to do. But it takes position with a full sense of what is expected of it, and unless it does that it is perfectly in place for the ratepayers to make objections.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Montreal Star publishes a write-up of Medicine Hat, together with a general description of Alberta. The write-up is good, but the cut of the city is from a photo taken about five years ago. There is not one house on the hill and the city south of the tracks is all that is shown. It is a strange fact that not a picture of Medicine Hat taken within two years from across the river has ever been published. Compare the cut you see with the houses on the hill as you know them.

The Winnipeg Telegram is inclining pretty strongly to yellow journalism. One of its latest sensations is a three-column article, half of which appears on the front page. The headings run, "Soldiers of Fortune Recruited in Winnipeg Went to Death and Death Was Daniels' Escape. One of the Lads Who Escaped Tells His Story to The Telegram." Read it and you will find nothing but a story of a young Winnipeg boy who answered an advertisement for roughriders, volunteers, etc. He didn't do any more than answer the ad, but his picture appears in the article with the underline, "Young Winnipeg Man Who Narrowly Escaped Execution in a Filibustering Expedition in Brazil!" The man who had done the advertising is now in the hands of the enemy.

The Liberal papers have found Mr. Borden's trip a most disagreeable surprise to them. The most rabid have tried to belittle its effect, but some have acknowledged the seriousness it brought into the situation. One of the latest exhibitions of spleen is given by the Winnipeg Free Press. In a recent editorial it quotes Mr. Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, as drawing attention to the fact that Mr. Borden "eliminated from his harping according to the locality in which he found himself." It quotes the omission in Medicine Hat of reference to the Robins irrigation scheme.

Had Mr. Fisher cared to read Mr. Borden's address in this city he would have found that Mr. Borden dealt almost entirely with general policy, and only in the case of The Arctic did he handle specific instances of local actions. Mr. Borden mentioned irrigation graft as he did timber land graft, his position as a leader forcing him to cover too much ground in a short time to get down to details. His lieutenant, Bergeron, handled the special cases.

Mr. Fisher gave a second instance of his "ommission" by saying that Mr. Borden had left out reference to the Saskatchewan Valley Land Co., when speaking in Saskatoon. The Conservative leader omitted that transaction here also; so Mr. Fisher's reasoning is not sound.

It is to be supposed that when Mr. Borden omitted to mention the little graft scheme of Lemieux's brother, for which even Laurier would not allow him to run in Ottawa, it was because he was afraid. There were thousands of things he omitted, and it is unfortunate—but very good for the Liberals.

Everybody knows of that great scandal, The North Atlantic Trading Company—the company which was receiving hundreds of thousands of dollars from the Liberal government, and the names of the members of which were refused the House. As a local man said the other day, the Liberal government will lose more votes over that barefaced roguery than over anything else.

The thing was exposed at the last session and the government could only say that the members of that company would be forced to commit suicide if their names were known.

And yet, after all this exposure, it was drawn from Hon. L. P. Brodeur the other day that the same company had received $61,000 from the Liberal government since the last session.

Now it is in order to ask if there is such a company at all—if it is not simply a convenient way of getting money for more graft work, without having to account for it.

An error was made in the report of last week's council meeting in The Times. D. G. White wrote regarding the gas metre of a client, and it was reported that the council threatened to cut Mr. White's gas off if he did not pay. The decision of the council referred to Mr. White's client. This brings up again the question of the difficulty of hearing the council discussions at times. Ald. Forster, the new member, is now the principal offender in low talking.

To those that have such faith in the Monetary Times the following may have a similar effect to what was produced by their articles on the Canneries: "There has lately been ample evidence of quiet doings in the proceedings of municipal bodies. A city council is elected to manage, in the public interest, a city's affairs. Neither it, or its committee, or any individual has any right to constitute itself a Spanish Inquisition, Star Chamber and secret society combined. The proceedings of a city council should be made public. Nothing is gained by secrecy, for after all there is no such thing. Every good end is attained by publicity."

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