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THE Industrial Fair, which was opened on Tuesday, the 10th inst., in this city, has become an annual event of more than local significance. The great value of such exhibitions of the products of art, industry, scientific invention and mechanical skill can no longer be questioned. The immediate commercial advantages derived from bringing possible buyers and would-be sellers together, and setting before the former the very best samples of the various kinds of articles he may need, are but secondary though very tangible results of such an exhibition. It may even be doubted whether the stimulus given to competitive efforts to attain the highest excellence in the numerous departments of skill and industry, whose products are here set forth to view, is the greatest good resulting from such exhibitions. In the opinion of many they have an educative effect which is of the very highest and most lasting value. While this influence is felt in every industry represented, it probably yields the richest results in agricultural lines. The isolation which is, or rather which has hitherto been, considered to be a necessary condition of the life of a farmer, naturally tends to routine and stagnation. Probably the wonderful progress which has been made within the last twenty or twenty-five years, and which is yet going on, in agricultural methods is due to the influence of such exhibitions more than to any other cause. The opportunities here afforded the farmer to compare, on the one hand, the best results of his own methods with those of others from all parts of the country, and to acquaint himself, on the other hand, with the most perfect farming implements and labour-saving devices, have an effect in opening the eyes of the mind which could hardly be produced in any other way. Hence those who give time and thought to the management of such exhibitions render a great service to the whole country, as well as to the particular locality in which the fair may be held. The Toronto Annual Exhibition is rapidly achieving, as it deserves, a Canadian and even a continental reputation. It might be easy to take exception, not perhaps without good reason, to some of the side-shows and other extraneous devices which it is deemed necessary to associate with the more legitimate features of such exhibitions, but there is good ground for confidence that

the Toronto commissioners, who have done so well in the past, will continue to exclude everything that is seriously objectionable on the ground of taste or morality. There seems every reason to expect that the exhibition now in progress will surpass in genuine merit the best of its predecessors.

THE declaration of one of the Public School Trustees of Toronto in favour of female as compared with male teachers as principals is giving rise to a good deal of discussion and eliciting much difference of opinion. To our thinking the question is not one of sex but of capability and training. All hasty generalizations, based on supposed general principles rather than on these essential considerations, are untrustworthy and misleading. There are, no doubt, some women who are vastly more efficient both as teachers and as disciplinarians than the average man who has had equal advantages. But so, on the other hand, there are some men who are vastly more capable in both these respects than the average woman who has had equal advantages. If the old impression that the masculine pedagogue has an undoubted natural superiority by reason either of his supposed greater strength of mind or his admitted greater strength of muscle has not been wholly removed by the logic of facts, it is time that it were. There is a certain class of writers who are always ready to bewail the real or fancied deterioration in manners and morals of the boys of the present day as compared with those of the good old past when they themselves were boys, and to attribute it to the assumed weaker discipline of the schools. From this it is easy to pass by another logical bound to the conclusion that the weaker discipline is the result of the predominance of female teachers in the schools. One writer exclaims, and he but re-echoes a wide-spread sentiment, "Be as sentimental as you please, it is useless to maintain that a woman can have as much control over an unruly boy as a man." For our own part, without pleading guilty to an undue share of sentimentality, we make bold to aver that there are hundreds of women in the schools who can and do have more control over unruly boys than any men, save an exceptional few, and who know how to use this control to develop most effectively the very desirable trait of "moral manliness." The fact unhappily is, however, that the qualities essential to this control, which is indispensable to the highest success in teaching, are deplorably rare in either sex. This defect is owing sometimes to the lack of natural gifts, mental and moral, but oftener and more largely to the lack of mental and moral training and culture, in the case of both sexes. Probably under the law of averages, the chances are at present on the side of the man as likely to make the better teacher and principal. But granting this, is it not fairly and reasonably attributable to the fact that hitherto the educational advantages have been greatly in favour of the young men? We are glad to know that the unfair disparity arising from this cause is rapidly disappearing, yet it cannot be doubted that on the average the male teachers in our schools have had educational advantages superior to those enjoyed by their compeers of the other sex. Nevertheless, in view of the unsurpassed success of many women in every department of educational work, is it not the part of wisdom and common sense to conclude that school trustees, unless under exceptional circumstances, should leave the question of sex out of the consideration and be guided wholly by the proof of ability and merit?

CANADIANS in general and the stockholders and managers of the Canadian Pacific Railway in particular may well be proud of the latest achievement of that corporation in the way of reducing time between Yokohama and New York. This feat will become matter of history, though no one can say to what extent it may be surpassed within the next decade. The record may be briefly put, but it is none the less wonderful. The mail from China and Japan, contained in eighteen mail bags—twelve for England and six for the United States—left Yokohama, on board the steamship *Empress of India*, on the 19th of August, and was landed at Victoria, B. C., on the 29th of August. The bags were immediately placed on board a special train held in readiness by the C.P.R. authorities, and whirled across the continent at a rate of speed which

sometimes reached 70 miles and frequently from 50 to 60 miles an hour, and arrived at Brockville at 9.20 on the evening of September 1, having crossed the continent in three days. The mail bags were at once transferred to a special furnished by the New York Central at Morristown, and carried to New York at a speed of 60 to 70 miles an hour, reaching that city at a few moments after five. The bags intended for England were safe on board the *City of New York* when she left her moorings at ten minutes past five, for her race across the Atlantic. If the steamship made her usual time the mails were delivered in England on the 9th inst., twenty days from Yokohama. Though this was a special effort, we understand that the railway authorities expect to keep up or surpass this rate of speed. The strain on machinery and men must have been heavy, and one is at first thought disposed to wonder if the game is worth the candle—if, in other words, the advantage resulting to any one from the receipt of the mails from the East a day or two earlier is sufficient to compensate for the special effort and the wear and tear and anxiety it involves. But the managers of the railway know, no doubt, what they are about. The value of the record as a demonstration of the capabilities of the route as a short cut to the East will no doubt be very great. Already, in advance of the arrival of the *New York*, the feat has attracted a good deal of attention, in England, and has led to press speculations on the effect this new route may have in revolutionizing the carrying trade of the world. It has also inspired the *St. James' Gazette* to declare that Canada is the most valuable highway to the East, and to add that England must keep her within the Empire at any cost.

A CORRESPONDENT "A. H." in another column calls attention to a prevalent and gross abuse which has crept in under cover of the Act which gives to married women, as to other citizens, power to hold and manage property in their own right. Few reasonable persons will question the justice of the Married Women's Property Act now in force in this Province, or deny that the former laws under which a married woman could not possess or manage property in her own right were essentially unjust, and often the means of inflicting great hardship and wrong. Nevertheless it is within the knowledge of most of those who give attention to such matters that there are in almost every community those who take advantage of the present law and make it the means of abetting the grossest dishonesty. Who does not know of cases in which men are living in luxury on the proceeds of property which by every rule of honesty and right belongs to others, but who have so arranged matters, by the simple process of making over their possessions to their wives, that their creditors cannot lay their hands upon a cent's worth of it? Such a state of affairs is discreditable and shameful, and if it is within the power of our legislators to amend the Act by the application of checks and safeguards, as our correspondent suggests, it should be done without delay. We should be glad to have the opinions of others—both men of business and those learned in the law—in regard to the matter.

WHATEVER view the Special Committee of the House of Commons may take of Mr. Cochrane's relations to the Patronage Committee of the East Northumberland Conservative Association, the operations of that Committee, as clearly shown in evidence, are among the most shameful of the many shameful transactions which have been uncovered at Ottawa during the present session. It is painful to think that the political principles of men who it is fair to suppose are neither ignorant nor unscrupulous, but are persons of local prominence and influence, can have become so debased, their views of right and wrong in public affairs so confused, that they could make a merchandise of the public service, and sell their influence, or that of their representative, conferred by the franchise of their fellow-citizens, for money. In the view of all whose moral vision has not been dimmed by the party spirit, the fact that the money taken out of the scanty wages of labouring men was used for partisan, not personal, purposes, does not affect the moral character of the action in the least. Either these