

It is not from such a point of view that one can earnestly pronounce on such a question, as just shown by me. No doubt the educational exhibit of the province of Ontario was apparently superior to that of the province of Quebec. But we know that the amount put at the disposal of the exhibitors of the province of Quebec did not exceed some few hundred dollars. Now, that amount was vastly inferior to what it should, and would, have been had the provincial resources allowed of it. The smallness of the amount available to the exhibitors of that province had this result: that, among other things, the space allotted to the exhibitors of the province of Quebec was very limited. On the other hand, it must be remembered that an appropriation of \$10,000 had been voted by the province of Ontario in order to give its educational exhibit the full importance it deserved. As a result, the space allotted to that province on the exhibition grounds was also proportionally much larger than the one allotted to the exhibitors of the province of Quebec. I have reason to believe, Mr. Speaker, that the distinguished man whose opinion I have quoted did not take that point of view to appreciate such an important competition as the educational competition which took place between the various provinces of the Dominion at the Chicago World's Fair. There is also another way of ascertaining the respective worth of such a competition, and it is by going into details in order to ascertain the nature of the works of the exhibitors and their degree of perfection. From this point of view, Mr. Speaker, I may say that the works of the exhibitors, I mean the pupils of the province of Quebec, were much larger, both in quantity and quality, than the works exhibited by the pupils of most of the other provinces, without excepting the province of Ontario, itself. I may also say that those works were considered as more practical and likely to convey a better idea of the education, of the instruction given in the province of Quebec. I may say, moreover, that the exhibitors of that province carried a much greater number of prizes than the exhibitors of the other provinces. If I am well informed, the awards granted to the educational exhibit of the province of Quebec were more numerous than those given to the other exhibits of the same kind. I have been ever waiting, Mr. Speaker, for the bringing down of the papers relating to this question, but as it seems likely that the Government will not hand them over to the House unless being asked for them, I thought it was in the public interest to take measures so that these facts should be made known to the public. On what can I rely to make the statement that the educational exhibit of the province of Quebec was equal, if not superior, to the educational exhibits of the other provinces of

Mr. LACHAPPELLE.

the Dominion, on what can I rely, beyond the facts I have just communicated to the House, to assert that the educational exhibit of the province of Quebec must be considered as having been equal, to say the least, to those of the other provinces? I will give you some facts which will show that I am right in making such a statement. We have the opinions of many professional men, of scholars who took a very particular interest in that section of the Chicago World's Fair. Allow me to quote, in support of my contention, the statements in that respect of some of these gentlemen. Mr. Laurier, one of the representatives of the Department of Public Instruction in France, wrote, among other things, the following:—

Your books are the only ones, I think, headed by informations, showing, in a full, definite and clear way, the school, the class, the number of pupils, their age, &c.

I also observe with much pleasure that the daily exercises of your pupils, at every degree, are characterized by an earnestness which is seldom to be found at the Fair, and that they are carefully and methodically corrected.

Your methods are so much like our own that I thought for a moment I was in France. Perhaps were I not mistaken in believing that there are in Canada, besides the hands which skillfully traced the French characters, hearts which beat for that France which your fathers loved so much and which, I feel sure, your little Canadians still love.

Such, Mr. Speaker, is the opinion of a man enjoying a universal repute in point of education. Here is a testimony stating clearly and definitely the kind and value of the works exhibited by the pupils of the province of Quebec at Chicago. I notice the report made, under date 29th August, 1893, by the correspondent of the St. John (N.B.) 'Daily Sun,' who says:

As I promised last week, I will now give you some particulars of the Liberal Arts Gallery, Canadian exhibit.

The province of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and the North-west Territories are represented in those exhibits. British Columbia, New Brunswick, Manitoba and Prince Edward Island have no exhibit in this section. Quebec, Canada's oldest province, makes an exhibit of her educational system which, judging by the quality and quantity, will help to dispel many erroneous ideas and fallacies as to her civilization.

I may be allowed to quote the opinion expressed by one of our colleagues, a member of this House, I refer to the hon. member for Gaspé:

One educational exhibit, he says, is especially practical, the most practical of all those I have seen here, and they are very many. You can see in it the work of the pupils day after day, the tasks as bonded over to the teachers, with the corrections made by the latter, the teaching methods, the classical books in use, the writing-books, &c.