

Our Montreal Letter.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
EDUCATIONAL DIFFICULTIES ON ALL SIDES.

"There are things of my dreamings
Perhaps I shall never know;
At present school problems hold me
From the ways where dreamings
Go."

Montreal is beset with educational problems on all sides. The difficulties in the educational arena in the Metropolis at present have been unprecedented in her history.

The Protestant School Board want to unburden itself of the education of the Jewish children. The leading Jewish citizens don't want a separate panel.

The Catholic School Board asked for \$6,000,000 to build new schools and enlarge others. The Quebec Legislature gave them power to borrow only \$2,000,000, so that the taxpayers would not be obliged to pay more school taxes.

The Verdun Protestant School Board is bankrupt with the bailiffs rapping at the doors. The Quebec Government told the delegation that the Protestant School Board should take over the Verdun Schools and try and get them out of their difficulties. It appears that the condition is so bad that the Board at Verdun cannot pay the interest on its bonds, and unless something is done immediately a seizure of all the schools will be allowed to roam the streets. The members of the Protestant Board seem to think that they are saddled with enough debts at present, and cannot see their way clear to take over the Verdun Schools. Rev. Mr. Williams seems to think it unfair that the neutral panel in Montreal does not contribute toward the upkeep of the Protestant Schools in Verdun.

"By a peculiar trend in the population we have in Verdun a large number of youthful married, English-speaking Protestant people," Mr. Williams stated. "They are a lower class and they live in properties owned by moneyed Roman Catholics. These Protestant English have large families and they are raising these families to provide workmen and office men for the very companies that make up the neutral panel in Montreal."

"It is to the vital interest of Montreal corporations to insist that the coming generation living in outlying districts be educated and fitted for their position in industrial and commercial life. This cannot be done if Verdun Protestant schools close down. Verdun is a sort of clearing-house for the British immigrant. We in Canada invite these people to our shores, encourage them to bring their families and to settle amongst us, and it is a direct slap in their faces for us to be forced to tell them that we cannot educate their children."

"The Verdun boy is a strong, healthy youth. The pure air that comes from the stretches of the St. Lawrence River along our shore in invigorating. Clean, strenuous amusements are freely provided for the physical betterment of this new population, but all our efforts to give

Montreal a hardy force of men and women will fail if we are prevented from supplying the intellectual attainments that are so necessary to our business life."

At a special meeting of the Board of Protestant Commission of Montreal, the School Trustees of Verdun stated their case, but as the meeting was closed to the press the full particulars of what was done could not be learned.

It was stated after the meeting that no decision on Premier Taschereau's suggestion that the Montreal board should take over the Verdun Protestant schools had been reached by the Montreal commissioners. It had been arranged that each member of the Montreal board should be supplied with a complete statement of the situation in writing, so that he may study the matter thoroughly before next Thursday, when the board will meet again and take some decision relative to the premier's suggestion in this respect.

It is understood that the Montreal board are wondering if they have the right to spend money of the Montreal tax payers for the benefit of other municipalities. H. J. Garrity, Chairman of the Verdun Board, said: "We have gone into the whole situation from A to Z. I have pointed out to the best of my ability what is ahead of the Montreal board should they take over the Verdun schools, and I feel that the information which has been supplied will enable the Montreal commissioners to more fully understand the responsibilities which they are asked to assume."

"I found the Montreal board very courteous, and I feel sure that they are a capable body of men whose decision in this regard the people of Montreal will do well to stand by, no matter what it is."

"In my opinion it would be an imposition to place our indebtedness on the Montreal board. If it is a case of Protestants being forced to come to the aid of their co-religionists, what is the matter with Westmount, or Outremont, or Lacine? Are not all Protestants on the island of Montreal affected in the same way? Why Montreal?"

"It is no longer a question of the rights of one city. It has now taken a larger issue. It is now a question of the security of Protestantism in this province."

"It is the unanimous wish of the Protestants of Verdun that the Government take action in this matter and not leave it to Protestant boards who are almost as distressed as ourselves."

"The British North America Act should be amended, if necessary. At present it is not applicable to the changed conditions, and almost works on a commission basis. The more property one side or the other acquire, the more money they have. It is easy to see which side will win out in Verdun, under the present system. The French-Canadians are old-established and the English-Protestants are largely immigrants in that municipality. There should be no ascendancy of one race over the other under the law."

So the situation is a very perplexing one for the Protestant Trustees of Montreal to handle.

The Catholic School Board a few years ago took over some School Municipalities that were swamped in debt which greatly increased their own obligations, and things have been going from bad to worse in trying to borrow money to build schools all over the island. The Quebec Government divided the city into districts, giving 32 Commissioners to manage all the schools under the charge of the Catholic School Commission. The educationalship is top-heavy with "bosses" of all kinds and fully \$50,000, if not \$75,000, is wasted on useless positions. Nine Commissioners could do the work just as efficiently as 32. The Government is to study the whole system with a view of curtailing expenses.

The Catholic High School Governors seem to have struck an snag also. A change in the curriculum of studies, whereby more time will be devoted to Latin and Greek to make it a real classical College instead of a High School, seems to have aroused the ire of some of the parents and contributors to the Fund for the building of the Catholic High School. A public meeting may be called to protest against the change. It is rumored that the present staff of teachers, the Irish Presentation Bros. may resign, and that if the Board of Governors carry out their plans to have a Classical College, the secular clergy will have charge of it. The educational pot is boiling and flowing over with excitement and troubles of all kinds. In an article in St. Patrick's Message, entitled "You and Your Boy," the article lends color to the rumor of the Classical College for English-speaking Catholic Boys. It says:—

Building up a business, developing a commercial connection has now become a big undertaking; it is no longer a matter of the mere selling of goods, of precision in figuring and book-keeping. The qualifications of the chief executive of a large commercial concern are complex and manifold. The requirements, even of the head of a department, are most exacting.

Time was when neatness of handwriting, accuracy of figures, expert bookkeeping and speedy typewriting counted for so much. Business men to-day tell us that these conditions are no more.

When a position of preference is in the gift of the head of a large business house, he looks around for a man that is thorough, educated in the broadest sense, a man of sound judgment, who has initiative and looks to details, who has, with a well moulded character, facility to express himself with precision, to write, to dictate and to interview also with clearness, poise and ability. In other words, it's the well trained mind that is needed.

Coming now to the classics, how can the study of Latin and Greek produce this type of man? The pupil who pores over a Latin and Greek text and dissects it piece by piece, word for word, extracting from it all the full thought of the author and then renders it in elegant English, that boy is performing an exercise that is a drill, a discipline, a process of gymnastics to his intellect; and that process is the greatest mind trainer and builder that was ever

invented. Some people think we study Latin for Latin alone; no, we study Latin in order to know English and French . . . to know history, to know geography, to know philosophy, in fine, to know how to think rightly.

NEW ENGINES FOR THE C. P. R.

Fifty new engines have been ordered by the Canadian National railway lines and, with their completion, it is claimed the road will have the largest passenger tractors and the most powerful freight locomotives in Canada. Fifteen of the "mountain type," the 6000 class, thirty mikado freight engines and five Santa Fe type locomotives are on the order.

All the engines will have the very latest railway equipment and devices, and will be the last word in locomotive construction. The 6000 type, at present in use between Montreal and Toronto, has given entire satisfaction. The Santa Fe freight engines will be used for transfer work, while the mikado type will be used in the west.

AND STILL THE ROBBERIES GO ON

The detective department got a shaking up lately and some of the leading men were reduced to first class constables. The change came as a result of the epidemic of robberies taking place here as regular as clock work. Fur stores seem to have a special attraction for the bad men. Another common custom is to rob butchers' shops by locking up the proprietors in the refrigerator. A few of the "wicked ones," received sentences totalling 95 years, four getting 20 years each, and one 15 years. The latest three robberies reported were, Joseph Demers of Duluth, Minn., who stated that he had been robbed of \$177 by two men, whose acquaintance he had made on the street. Demers stated that he was visiting his brother, Napoleon Demers, 2503 Notre Dame Street, West, and that he had gone for a walk. He met a man who asked him some information about the location of a street. They talked for a few moments and a second man came upon the scene and the talk became general. After a while the second man offered to buy beer for the party. They went into a tavern and, after drinking his beer, Demers fell asleep. When he woke up his money was gone. He claimed that he had been drugged.

Michael McCarthy, of 191 McCord Street, reported to the police of the Young Street station, that his home had been entered by robbers using skeleton keys during his absence during the evening of Thursday.

Arthur Lalonde, tavern keeper, of St. James Street, reported that during the night burglars had broken into the tavern and stolen cigars and cigarettes to the value of \$75.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT INCREASED.

Fifty additional firemen have been added to the department, including two deputy-chiefs, and four district chiefs. Chief Arthur Gauthier succeeds Chief Chevalier, and under his guidance the department is doing well.

THE DRUG HABIT IS STILL STRONG.

The drug habit in Montreal is not decreasing by any means, it's rather on the increase, as the following tells: Six hundred and seventy-seven cans of morphine and three ounces of cocaine are said to have been seized by United States officials on a train at Alburgh, Vermont, during the past week. The drug is thought to have been consigned from Montreal.

It seems that the suspicions of U.S. officials were aroused by two passengers on the Rutland train from Ogdensburg. The train was searched, and in the luggage of the passengers concerned the officials found a large quantity of drugs, apparently being smuggled over the international border. The men gave New York addresses.

It is the belief of the authorities that the drugs came from Montreal. It is presumed that the two men took the train from Montreal to Huntington, Que., and crossed the border to Chertabasco fourteen miles, where the train to New York was boarded, this precaution of taking the train on United States soil being taken. It is believed, to ward of suspicion.

R. J. LOUIS CUDDIHY.

Two Horses
Pull 18½ Tons.

AGRICULTURAL HALL TESTS TO BE REPEATED BEFORE THE KING.

To find out what weight a shire horse can pull was the object of a series of tests at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Ilkington.

The horses' first test was on the tan in the hall itself. Two fine shires sent by the Liverpool Corporation pulled a dockside wagon weighing two and a half tons with an added weight of four tons.

In another test on the granite sets in the Liverpool road the deadweight load was sixteen tons.

Although the road surface was not improved by a fall of sleet and rain, the two horses gave a magnificent demonstration of strength, and once on the move proceeded with ease.

When the King visits the show further tests will be made.

London, New York & Paris Association of Fashion

Preliminary Announcement!!

We wish to announce to the public generally that the

FORMAL OPENING of our

BARGAIN BASEMENT

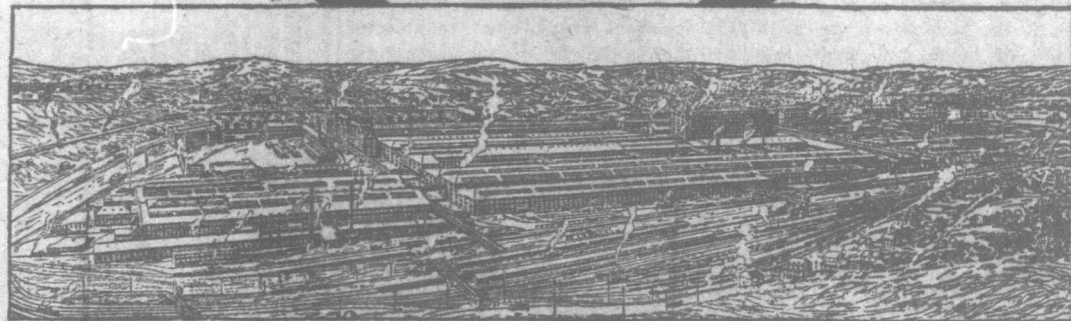
Will Take Place Within
The Next Few Days

The opening of our **BARGAIN BASEMENT** will be even more spectacular in its value-giving--than the great sales staged by us in the past--AN EVENT OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO EVERY SAVING-WISE SHOPPER OF ST. JOHN'S AND VICINITY.



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London, New York & Paris Association of Fashion



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