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J. GRISWOLD, Associate Editor.

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THE STUDY OF FRENCH AGAIN.

In the course of a lecture delivered recently before a Montreal audience, Mr. A. N. Shewan, a prominent teacher in the High School, took occasion to say that he objected to what has lately been said regarding the necessity of a better study of French in the schools. He claimed that "eventually English must prevail, and by compelling our children to learn French we are putting off that day the longer." Now we sympathise with the patriotism of this sentiment but we must in passing, point out the utter fallacy of the argument. Many thousands of Frenchmen have been compelled by the necessities of business to learn English, but how many of them have dropped their own language or become one whit less French in their character and sympathies? On the other hand, how many Englishmen have become French by learning to speak that language? Suppose that every Frenchman in Canada spoke English also, would French die out? Not at all, for it would be kept alive by the national feeling. The only result of this foolish prejudice among High School teachers and others is that large numbers of our own young men are shut out from the host of employments and positions in this province which require a knowledge of both languages, and are compelled to seek employment in Ontario or the United States. Is this helping on the time when English will prevail? Let a common sense policy prevail in our schools, and let our children learn more French and less Greek.

We are glad to see that an improvement has taken place of late, owing, no doubt, to the agitation which has been carried on; but we are far from satisfied yet with what has been done. It must always be nothing short of a disgrace to the School Commissioners, if any boy is allowed to graduate from the High School without being able to converse and correspond fluently in French.

COMBINES

There is one subject which at present appears to be agitating, what we shall call for want of a better word, our patriarchal press, by which we mean such journals as desire the government to regulate with a fatherly hand all the laws of supply and demand, whether in produce, manufactures or labor, and as a matter of consequence to rectify all abuses or hardships of either the producer or the consumer. In point of fact, we do not think we are going too far in stating that there are some among us who not only argue that government should take trade and commerce under its fostering wing, but that it should actually put a limit on prices, so that the manufacturer who is protected shall not collect too exorbitant a profit from the consumer who pays for that protection.

This utopian idea is by no means a new one, since we can remember as children reading in history that in barbarous ages prices for commodities used to be fixed by government, which in the plenitude of its wisdom was supposed to know both what the vendor could afford to sell at as well as what the purchaser could afford to give. And yet somehow or other the beautiful system did not work successfully; and as history is apt to repeat itself, we will venture to predict that any attempt on the part of our government to control the prices of any particular branch of trade can only result in failure and disaster. Those nations in the long run are the most successful in commerce whose trade is subject to the fewest restrictions and is the least interfered with by government.

These remarks are suggested by some leaders which have been published lately by one of our evening contemporaries, which is particularly severe upon what it calls the Sugar Combine, insinuating that the government is guilty of an unholy alliance with those who are fleecing the consumer in an unnecessary and extortionate manner. Now divested of all grandiloquence, what does this charge amount to? That the refiners whom the national policy of protection has benefitted must not be too greedy, nor press too hard upon the public, but must be content with a moderate profit, and shall not enter into any combination by which the price of sugar shall be so very much higher than in other countries. For a journal which is a supporter of the "National Policy," to deny that protection should not encourage monopolies or enhance prices, simply shows that it has given very little thought or study to the subject. That there may be counteracting advantages in the shape of increased employment