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All articles, contributions, and letters on matters pertaining to the editorial department should be addressed to the Editor, and not to any other person who may be supposed to be connected with the paper.

THE Return which was called for during the late Session of the Ontario Legislature, shewing the number and location of Public Schools in Ontario in which any language other than English is used in the work of teaching, either wholly or in part, and certain other facts concerning the number of scholars in such schools, the text-books used, the competency of the teachers in the use of English, etc., has been published. As is usual and, we suppose, proper in the case of such returns, the questions are tabulated and the answers given in the most literal and concise form. The result is that when one has gone over the statistics, he finds himself with a great deal of information he did not really want, and without much that he did particularly want. With reference to the special question under consideration, viz., the condition and work of the Public Schools in those localities of the Province which are largely settled by French, it is, for instance, of little interest to learn that all the scholars in the Public Schools of Toronto are taught in English, and that all the teachers in these schools are capable of teaching in English. The fact that teachers and methods of instruction in nineteen schools are all that can be desired throws no light whatever upon the question at issue when that question happens to relate entirely to the state of things existing in the twentieth. Touching this twentieth, or, in other words, the considerable number of schools in certain counties in which the Return shows that the teaching is done "partly in French," it would be interesting, and perhaps instructive, to be told exactly how much the "partly in French" means. The curious would also like to learn just what degree of proficiency in the knowledge and use of English is implied in the statement that none of the teachers in these schools, with not more than two or three exceptions, "cannot use the English language in teaching."

WHEN, for example, Inspector Summerby reports that in sixty-five of the schools of the United Counties of Prescott and Russell French is used "in part" in the work

of teaching, and that in fifty-two out of these sixty-five schools all the scholars without exception use the French text-books, it is hard to resist the conclusion that these schools are essentially French schools, and that the amount of teaching done in English is probably insignificant, if not infinitesimal. The next column, it is true, assures us that none of all the teachers in these schools "cannot use the English language in teaching." But do they so use it, and if so to what extent, and with what degree of efficiency? There can be no doubt that these teachers are, almost without exception, French; for the number of our English Public School teachers capable of using the French language to the extent indicated by the list of text-books is certainly very small. Is it in the least degree likely that any considerable number of these French teachers have sufficient mastery of English to be able to use it with any approach to ease and correctness in the work of teaching, or that any appreciable number of the scholars could understand it if so used? Are either teachers or scholars at all likely to discard their own familiar mother tongue in favour of what is to them a foreign one unless absolutely compelled to do so? It is clear that there is still a work for the Commission to do in setting before us the exact, unsophisticated facts. When these facts are before us we shall find, it may safely be predicted in view of the knowledge already in hand, that there are in Ontario from one hundred to one hundred and twenty Public Schools, supported in part by Provincial funds, in which from one hundred and fifty to two hundred French teachers instruct from seven to eight thousand French children chiefly in and by means of the French language. Ought these things so to be? If not, what can be done, lawfully and without injustice or undue harshness, to effect a change? The clearer and fuller the information given the better will be the opportunity afforded for wisely answering these difficult questions.

THE WEEK holds no brief for the defence either of Mr. Erastus Wiman, or of the Commercial Union of which he is the foremost advocate. When, in a comment on the unreliableness of much that is given to the public by telegraph as news, we observed that we might pretty safely assume Mr. Wiman's own version of his evidence before the Senate Committee on Inter-State Commerce to be correct, "on grounds of inherent probability, if on no other," we were merely ascribing to that gentleman the attributes of common sense and common shrewdness, which even the *Empire* will scarcely deny him. Everyone knows something of the word-of-mouth facility with which the average American reporter will extract from any given raw material, and sometimes without even that, the kind of product that will best suit the palate of his readers. On the other hand no one will, we dare say, question the sincerity of Mr. Wiman's desire to win the Canadian mind over to a favourable view of Commercial Union. This being so what would be more absurd than for a man who is constantly speaking for the press, in public and in private, to suppose that he could gain anything by professing one set of opinions and aims in Canada and another set, almost precisely the opposite, in the United States, knowing well, as he must, that the reports of the latter would reach Canadian eyes just as soon as those for which they were intended? One view was, and is, that Mr. Wiman is altogether too shrewd—probably his and the *Empire's* mutual friend Sir Charles Tupper, and many others who dissent *in toto* from his great project, would add, "and too high minded"—to be guilty of such folly. Hence we infer that the strange incongruities in question must be in the reporting, though it is, we admit, hard to account for them even on that hypothesis.

THE *Globe* takes exception to a remark in our last number to the effect that substantially the same objection (inconsistency with our system of Responsible Government) which we urged to the proposal to petition the Governor-General to take the prerogative of dissolution into his own hands lies against the proposal to petition for the disallowance of the Jesuits Estates' Act, in face of the overwhelming vote in the Commons against disallowance. As the matter is of importance we may explain our meaning a little more fully. Notwithstanding anything objectionable in the form of the motion, it cannot, surely, be seriously denied that the great majority of the Commons did intend

to vote against disallowance itself, not, as the *Globe* "for argument's sake" assumes, "to please the Roman Catholic Church," but on the ground which was put forward in every speech on that side of the question, that the Act was within the powers of the Quebec Legislature; and that to disallow it would be a violation of the Provincial rights of which the *Globe* has heretofore been one of the most uncompromising champions. This being so, in what position would the people of Canada put themselves should they now petition the Government to disallow the Act? The normal and constitutional medium of communication between the people and the Government is the Commons. Of course the Government might, if so disposed, disregard the vote of the Commons; but they have no wish to do so. They are of one mind with the great bulk of the people's representatives, of both parties, in the matter. May they not be expected to say to His Excellency, should he be influenced by petition to ask for disallowance, on the ground of the popular feeling: "We have been advised of the popular wish in the ordinary and legitimate way—through the people's representatives. If the people were misrepresented that is their own business. Let them compel their unfaithful members to resign. Let them choose others. We do not pledge ourselves to follow the instruction of even these in such a matter; but if we do not we must take the consequences. They are the only constitutional representatives of the people. If we should decide otherwise; if we should take it upon ourselves to say that we do not accept the vote of the Commons as the expression of the popular will, but are going to disregard it and take our cue from public meetings and from petitions, though we have no means of knowing how many of the signatures to those petitions are those of citizens and electors, we should surely be pouring contempt upon the whole system of Responsible Government?"

THE principle that "a house divided against itself cannot stand," can hold in no case more true than in that of a college or university supported on the voluntary principle. Not only the members of the Methodist body, but all friends of higher education must deeply regret the struggle that is now going on with regard to the future of Victoria University. The two questions at issue, those of location and federation or independence, are evidently distinct. They are not necessarily even closely related to each other. Both are questions whose decision must rest exclusively with those who own and support the institution, and it would, perhaps, be counted little less than impertinent were an independent journal to attempt to discuss either on its merits. It may, however, be permitted to an onlooker to say that from the outside point of view it now looks as if the time had arrived for the cooler and wiser contestants on both sides to put their heads together with a view to finding some place of compromise. It is now pretty evident that the triumph of either party must mean great injury to the institution, at least in the immediate future. Either independence in Cobourg or federation in Toronto would bid fair, in the present state of feeling, to result in the alienation of much sympathy and support which the college cannot afford to lose. This result would be injurious to the educational interests of the whole Province, and specially so to those of the Methodist denomination. The determined hostility of the majority both of the Senate and of the alumni to the policy which was adopted by the Conference, and which the Board of Regents have been so energetically striving to carry out, are facts of very grave significance. If there is any possibility of finding some intermediate course that could be accepted by all, or by the great majority, the present would seem to be the time to seek for it.

AN Ottawa despatch to one of the morning papers states that the Mayor of that city, in pursuance of an understanding with the Mayor of Toronto, is sending a circular to the Mayors and Reeves throughout Ontario, suggesting that a convention be held to discuss the question of tax exemptions and other provisions of the assessment law. The aim of the proposed convention would be to agree, if possible, upon some definite and uniform plan before again pressing the matter upon the attention of the Ontario Government. The movement is a wise one. It