

benefit of the residents of town and city. From the purely practical point of view, the answer we have already quoted from a contemporary journal is sufficient. Increase the inducements of the farm and of rural life, make them equal to those offered in the pursuits which are so much sought after, and the same motive which begets the evil will counteract it. But nothing short of a system of serfdom will suffice to keep the farmer's son on the farm, if he believes that he can better his circumstances elsewhere.

We all admit that the overcrowding of the cities is an evil. But does it follow that those who happen to be born in the city, or to have reached it a little before their neighbours, have a prescriptive and exclusive right to remain in it and monopolize its business and professional opportunities for all time to come? How many of the best and strongest men in every department of business, professional, and public life, to-day, were country born and bred? How often does the boy from the farm prove himself more than the equal of the city lad in any pursuit requiring energy of brain and will. We are persuaded that no greater calamity could befall the country than a decree, were it possible to make and enforce such, that the children born in the country should remain in the country, and those born in the city remain in the city. Nature's provision for healthful circulation would be stopped and a process of physical and mental decay would set in.

It is not wholly a man of straw which we are warring against. We hear a great deal about the desirability of having agriculture more effectively taught in the country schools. But why not also in the city schools? If our methods of education are to be formed on practical lines and carried out with practical aims, it cannot be too clearly recognized that every attempt to arrange the occupations of the future men and women of the country can succeed only as it follows the planes of cleavage indicated in the mental formations. Too much regard cannot be had to natural tastes and aptitudes. The farmer's son may be formed by nature for a lawyer, the lawyer's or the merchant's for a farmer. No artificial system which forgets to take account of this and to afford every facility for the discovery and development of natural aptitudes can result otherwise than in failure.

The age of hereditary guilds has gone and will not return. Let the parent, especially, be on the lookout to discover the occupation for which the child is formed by nature, let the education keep this in view without being too much narrowed by it, and more will be done for the proper adjustment of town and country pursuits than can be accomplished by any educational limitations or restrictions.

But, above all, let us dismiss all fear that too many Canadian men and women will become educated, or that any of them may become too well educated. Education,

if it be genuine, will never be a foe to industry. No greater wrong can be done to any human being than to put an obstacle in the way of his obtaining the fullest culture and development of every faculty with which he is endowed. The cure for the alleged evils of over-education is more and better education. Educate all, then, all will be on a level and the readjustment of occupations will take care of itself. There is reason to hope that Canadians now living will see the day when farming will be recognized as one of the most desirable and genteel of occupations for a thoroughly educated and intelligent man. Let the day be hastened by parental wisdom in the home, and by scientific and liberal culture in the school.

OTTAWA LETTER.

The arrival of delegates to the Colonial Conference is being daily announced. They are coming from the east and the west, from the north and the south; Europe, Africa, Australasia and America are coming together to confer upon matters of mutual interest, and by the discussion of those broad questions that embrace the world in their grasp to help to lay the foundation of a greater Britain, which means, under the wise influence of the British constitution, a greater and grander civilization.

Mr. Parkin has arrived as the correspondent of the *London Times*, one to whom Canada is under a debt of gratitude for his striking and capable letters on the resources and prospects of Canada, which appeared in the columns of the *Times* during the past winter.

It was a wise provision to postpone the date of opening the Conference to the 28th, for the elections in Ontario seem to absorb the interest at the moment of writing. On Tuesday evening public curiosity will be satisfied as to who is to guide the destinies of the premier Province of Canada during the next four years, and public attention will then be free.

A considerable amount of work has been got through in Parliament, notwithstanding the absence of many members. The Senate has this year been utilized more than usual by having several important bills introduced there first, thus lightening the Commons somewhat of its arduous work.

The Insolvency Bill is likely to lie over till next session for further public consideration. The French treaty is another of those questions that seems to demand a postponement of its consideration. Anomalies exist in it which should be removed before it finds a place in our statute book.

One of the questions that is likely to come before the Conference is devising the means by which the British Colonies can trade with one another as they see fit. For that ostensible purpose, our Government, two years ago, memorialized the Imperial Government to withdraw from the Treaties of Belgium and Germany which gave to those countries and through them to all the countries with whom treaties had been negotiated most favored nation treatment, not only in the dealings of foreign nations with the British Empire, but in the dealings between Great Britain and her colonies. While the abrogation of those two treaties has been the policy of the Government, and if we can judge by the public utterances of some of the delegates they also anticipate

that the removal of restrictions upon the freedom of intercolonial trade will form one of the subjects of the Intercolonial Conference were presenting to Parliament a treaty which gives to France most favored nation treatment not only as regards our dealings with foreign nations, but if we make any trade relations with Australia or New Zealand, or Africa, we cannot do so without France, under this treaty, getting the full benefit of such arrangement without any corresponding return. The treaty also provides that France, Algeria and the French Colonies shall have the benefit of most favored nation treatment in everything, while Canada shall only receive the benefit of most favored nation treatment in the twenty articles enumerated in the treaty upon which a reduction of duty is made by France. In the treaty also France, Algeria and the Colonies are dealt with as one power, while the same consideration is not shown to Great Britain and the Colonies.

Under this treaty, if Canada should give to Australia or New Zealand or Africa the freedom of her markets in any particular, without extending it to Great Britain, France will enjoy the same freedom, while Great Britain will be excluded.

These are all points that will tend to make the treaty unpopular owing to their one-sided nature, and they appear to have the effect of undoing a great deal for which this Intercolonial Conference has been brought together.

As a treaty that is under criticism it appears to be too narrow in its scope to possess any national advantages, and it may have the effect of tying our hands in any intercolonial dealings we might wish to initiate. The ratification of the treaty will be likely to accord to all the nations with whom we have most favoured nation treaties the same advantages that are accorded to France, so that it is far-reaching in its results if it becomes law.

Ottawa was visited by a heavy loss on Monday night by the burning of Mr. Booth's large sawmill at the Chaudiere. The sight from Parliament Hill was a grand one. This was one of the largest and most complete sawmills in the world, and the loss to its owner and the city of Ottawa is a serious one. By working his other mill night and day Mr. Booth may get through his summer's cut, so that his business may not be brought to a standstill.

The defeat of the Hon. Mr. Harty in Kingston may be taken as an evidence that the clerical interference of Archbishop Cleary and Principal Grant in the political relations of the people has been resented in their own city. It is a misfortune that he should have to suffer from misplaced zeal, if that was its cause.

We have just had a lacrosse match which has created some notoriety. Lacrosse is an exceedingly pretty game and brings the finest athletic powers into play, but in the keen effort for victory honorable methods alone ought to prevail, and when six or eight thousand citizens are looking on who have supported the players with their gate-money, they should not be forced to witness the disgraceful scene which the unfairness and bad temper of some of the players brought about.

The coming week is apparently to be a week of gaiety. At home, garden parties, cricket matches, banquets, etc., in honor of our visitors and guests, are the order of the day. If the heat and the rain will only give us a rest, everything will go along smoothly.

Ottawa, June 26th, 1894.

VIVANDIER.