

I do not know that the English sparrow has done a very great deal of harm, but I imagine he has not done very much good. These examples should warn us that the introduction of any animal or fish into any waters in which it is not indigenous, ought not to be hastily attempted. I think the House ought not to commit itself to the proposition of the hon. gentleman, and that the suggestion of the hon. Minister should be accepted.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

SCHOOL AWARDS—CHICAGO FAIR.

Mr. LACHAPELLE (Translation) moved for :

Copy of the detailed report showing the prizes awarded by the judges or jury at the Chicago Columbian Exposition for the work of pupils of primary and special schools of every kind and degree, and also to pupils of secondary educational institutions of each of the provinces of Canada.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I may say in support of this motion that it is, I think, in the interest of the hon. members of this House, as well as in the interest of all earnest men in this country, that they should do all in their power to do away with a prejudice which seems deep-rooted among the people with respect to the education given in the various provinces, but especially in the province of Quebec. They are under the impression that the education given in the province of Quebec is inferior to that given in the other provinces; such an impression is, to my mind, erroneous. The education in that province is mostly given by the Brothers of the Christian Schools, whose worth is unquestionable. The society of the Brothers of the Christian Schools was founded, a little more than a century ago, by Jean Baptiste de la Salle. The teaching method of primary education introduced by de la Salle has always been held equal, if not superior, to the other systems of primary instruction. It was, however, opposed on several occasions, and the teaching Brothers, after some vicissitudes as to their treatment in some countries, were finally favourably received by them. Thus, to quote but a single instance, the Brothers of the Christian Schools, driven from France during the reign of terror, were recalled a few years later. I hold the primary instruction given in their schools to be, to say the least, equal to any other. In support of that contention, I may say that in 1885, at the great Educational Exhibition held in London, the schools of the Brothers carried a first prize in the general competition. In 1876, at the Philadelphia World's Fair, the same institution again carried a first prize. I may add that I have reason to believe that at the great Chicago Fair, held last year, the Brothers of the Christian Schools carried the greatest number of prizes in the great educational competition held there. In

the face of such facts, which appear to me to be indisputable, I wonder how it is that they should persevere in the belief that the schools of the province of Quebec, where that method of instruction prevails, should be considered as inferior to those of the other provinces. I am dealing with that question without any animosity or partiality; but I think it is in the interest, I will even say I think it is the duty of all of us, to cause this prejudice to disappear, as it keeps fanaticism alive and is injurious to the whole community. I see no reason why such an error or such a prejudice should be extant, unless it be that it is allowed to be stated again and again without being opposed. I now assert again that such a deplorable prejudice exists, and in support of my statement, will quote from a correspondence published in the Toronto 'Globe' under date 28th September, 1893, under the head :

THE WORLD'S FAIR.

SIR RICHARD WEBSTER ON THE ONTARIO EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT.

Sir Richard Webster, chairman of the Royal British Commission to the World's Columbian Exposition, has been thoroughly exploring during the past week. The distinguished British statesman having completed the rounds of the exhibit courts of the different provinces of the Dominion, was asked what he thought of their display. Sir Richard unhesitatingly declared that he was astonished both as to the magnitude and perfection of most of the exhibits, but said what struck him most forcibly was the Ontario Educational Exhibit in the gallery of the liberal arts building. Further, he expressed the opinion that it was one of the most beautiful and instructive of the whole exhibition. He thought Ontario the only exhibit that at all approached his ideal of what an educational exhibit should be, for he considered it the most perfect in arrangement and explanatory in a simple and satisfactory way of the finest practical system of public education from the Kindergarten to the University that the world affords to-day.

Well, there is the testimony of a most distinguished man. That correspondence, about the same time, finds its way to the 'Mail' and many other papers in the Dominion. It states most positively that the primary educational system of Ontario must be considered as superior, since it is the opinion of a most distinguished attorney from England. I may be allowed to ask on what that hon. gentleman relied to make such a gratuitous statement? Did he take a true practical point of view to form a rational opinion as to the facts? If I am not mistaken, the prizes had then been apportioned, or, at all events, the number of awards decided on. It is plain the distinguished man I have just quoted did not rely on that to make the statement I have just read to the House. He therefore gave his opinion very thoughtlessly, he spoke merely from a slight consideration of the question.