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THE main features of the Bill touching Friendly Societies now before the Ontario Legislature will commend themselves to most thoughtful persons. Such a Bill comes to the protection of the general public in matters in regard to which there is special need of such protection. In two respects in particular the provisions of the Bill can scarcely fail to prove beneficial to the members and beneficiaries of such Societies, without inflicting any peculiar hardship upon managers or investors. They will enable those who become subscribers to know, in the first place, the extent of the payments for which they make themselves liable, and in the second place the amount of the benefits to which they, or their families, will become, under certain circumstances, entitled. It is strange that in both these respects there should have been so much indefiniteness as seems hitherto to have existed in some cases. The details of the bill will, no doubt, be carefully scrutinized before it becomes law. In its general principles it seems to be sound, and to come clearly within the proper sphere of legislation.

THE same remark can hardly be made without modification in regard to the Bill to regulate the closing of shops and the hours of labour therein for children and young persons. The latter no doubt need, and are entitled to protection, and there seems no good reason why it should not be as proper for the law to restrict the hours of labour for such in shops, as in factories, though there may be more difficulty in enforcing regulations in regard to the smaller and more private establishments. But when the Government and Legislature undertake to make regulations for the closing of shops in towns and villages at certain hours, they approach delicate ground, and will need to step cautiously to avoid trenching upon the liberty of the subject. It is, no doubt, a source of vexation and injury that, under present circumstances, the obstinacy or greed of one or two individuals may defeat an early closing movement in a whole town or street, and deprive numbers of young persons of needful rest and relaxation. But to put it in the power of the majority to dictate to the minority in regard to the management of their own business seems hard to reconcile with our modern ideas of individual rights. No doubt the provisions of the Bill to be introduced will be closely scrutinized, and some means may be found of securing the rights of the young in shops, in respect to hours of closing, without too arbitrary an interference with the rights of person and property, but how it is to be done is not at present very clear. To fix

by law the hours within which traders may sell or customers purchase ordinary articles of merchandise, and especially household supplies, seems hardly possible in a free country.

THE movement amongst the students of University College for the abolition of "hazing," is commendable, and will no doubt in the end succeed. This practice, in common with certain other old but reprehensible college customs, is far better honoured in the breach than in the observance. All such assumptions of superiority on the part of one set of students are contrary to the spirit of the age; and the indignities and outrages to which they sometimes lead will no longer be tolerated either by collegiate or by public opinion. It is high time for all of these obnoxious survivals of an earlier stage of educational civilization to follow fagging and fisticuffs to the limbo of half-forgotten University traditions. The time has arrived when it may be safely left to the slower attrition of ordinary academical and social influences to polish off the angularities of the freshman character, and to tone down those little airs and assumptions with which he is wont to trench on the monopolies of his more advanced fellow-students. The idea of originating the movement for the abolition of "hazing" within the ranks of the students themselves, apart from any external pressure, is an excellent one. With such young men as now make up the bulk of Canadian undergraduates, it is not too much to expect to find this method of self-reform and discipline becoming at an early day the rule in all our colleges. Under a well developed system of self-government the occupation of "the Faculty" as a disciplinary force would soon be gone.

ONE of the chief difficulties in the working of our Public School system seems to arise from the fact of an over-supply of teachers. The Principal of one of the Model Schools, writing to the *Educational Journal*, says that notwithstanding the increased difficulty of examination papers and greater stringency in the requirements in several respects, five hundred more teachers were licensed last month than the needs of the schools demanded. The inevitable outcome will be, he predicts, a rapid exodus of the best teachers out of the profession in order that their places may be taken by the cheaper recruits, many of whom are, as the Inspector of Peel put it in one of his reports, legal infants. The *Journal* correspondent suggests as the most judicious and effective remedy that the minimum age of qualification for taking charge of a school be raised to twenty-one. It is now eighteen for males and seventeen for females. Meanwhile our neighbours across the line are, we observe, troubled with the same difficulty of an over-supply of those ambitious to be teachers. Amongst other public bodies the Merchants' Exchange of Buffalo has been discussing the question, and proposes a somewhat novel method of solution. It has, by a strong majority, after vigorous debate, adopted resolutions urging the Legislature to provide for the selection of teachers in the common schools by competitive examination. The action of the Exchange has been seconded by a petition signed by three hundred Buffalo ladies who believe that an application of the Civil Service system to their schools would elevate the standard of public instruction. The Buffalo proposition provides that appointments shall be on probation, so that if superiority in the competitive examinations shall be offset by defects of temper, character, or conduct, the probationer may be dropped from the force at the end of the provisional term. As the names of competitors are to be concealed from the examiners and examinations conducted in writing, this preliminary test is an essential part of the system. The method is certainly worthy of consideration in other places besides Buffalo, where there is over-supply, and at the same time abundant need of a stringent process of selection of the fittest.

THE Attorney-General of the new Manitoba Government has been speaking to an interviewer some brave words with regard to the Monopoly question and the intentions of the Government in the matter of the Red River Valley Railway. His alleged utterances do not harmonize very well with those ascribed to Premier Greenway, who is represented as saying that the road shall be built in a peaceful and constitutional way, whereas Mr. Martin, if correctly reported, declares in substance that it shall be built in the shortest and quickest way, through the lands and in spite of the