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VICTORIA, TUESDAY, JULY 16, 1895.

## THE SCHOOL QUESTION.

"Tomorrow" is the time when the much vexed and burning question of the Manitoba schools will come up for the action of Parliament. There is to be a special Fall session, the Dominion authorities taking a leaf out of the book of the old chieftain and apparently trusting to luck that something may turn up before the time for actual action arrives. When some months since the peremptory order went out from Ottawa that in default of remedial action by the Provincial Parliament, the Dominion authorities would at once intervene, it looked as if the Federal Government knew exactly what it was going to do, but instead it is apparently in no condition to act. Manitoba has to be most carefully handled, while in Ontario and Quebec there are powerful forces pulling contrary ways. In fact the existence of the Government was endangered, the situation being very much strained, three cabinet ministers resigning and one of them still remains among the irreconcilables.

The issue which has been raised by the politicians and the religionists has to be determined at some time, and we say the sooner the better "and may God defend the right." There are crises which must be met; if not to day, they are sure to come up in a much more aggravated form, and it is idle to put them off. The lines have been drawn and the sooner the controversy is disposed of the better for the peace and prosperity of the Dominion. It may be all very well to say "let sleeping dogs

lie," but in this case the dogs are not sleeping; but are only lying, each one waiting for one or the other to begin.

## ASSESSMENT INSURANCE.

In the New York Insurance department's report on the examination of the Mutual Reserve Fund Association occur the following passages:

"There was received during the year 1894, from those who joined the association prior to December 31st, 1888, (eliminating the English department), mortuary assessments of \$1,682,515. There was paid to the beneficiaries of this class of members, namely those who joined prior to December 31st, 1888, (eliminating the English department), insurance of \$1,914,820.

"It thus appears that the beneficiaries of this class received during the past year \$232,305 in excess of the income received. From the English department for the period mentioned, the mortuary assessments about equalled the death payments."

It appears that in the opinion of the official examiners of the State of New York, the members of the Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association who joined prior to 1889 are an annual charge upon the members to the extent of over a quarter of a million dollars per annum.

Commenting on this, *Money and Risks* says: "This is the end where all assessment insurance roads lead to. Even before any of the membership have reached their expectation it is found that the members of the oldest standing are causing a deficit in the funds." Now having the condition of things laid before them in so authoritative a manner we imagine that there will be few people who will be content to join an association, a class of whose membership is an annual charge, to the extent of \$-32,000 per year. Few men with their

eyes wide open will be content to be mulcted in this way and each year the condition of things will be getting no better. In the old line companies it is known exactly what the annual charges are, but in this concern they have all the time gone on augmenting.

## A DEFAULTING MAYOR.

Mayor Aubry, of the city of Hull, near the capital of the Dominion is a municipal offender who has got himself into trouble through malfeasance of office. He was charged with having received two promissory notes of \$500 each in settlement of a claim in favor of Joseph Bourque, contractor for the court house and jail, for \$31,569 as extras on that building, also with having taken moneys from Mr. T. Viau, for his influence in having a claim of extras passed in the city council on the Gatineau bridge. The third charge against him was of receiving moneys from the same party for his influence in having a franchise passed by the council to the Hull Electric Railway Company, of which Mr. Viau is a chief promoter. Judge Malhiot found Mayor Aubry guilty on the first charge, but the evidence on the other two charges was not sufficient to convict. Mayor Aubry's sentence was a fine of \$983 and costs probably not far from \$2,000. He will thus practically experience that the way of the municipal transgressor is a hard one.

## E. B. HARPER DEAD.

The President of the Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association has died since the beginning of the month from heart disease and other complications. His death will no doubt add materially to the assessments made upon the membership, and now that he is gone it may well be asked who is there to fill his place. Differing as we have done from Mr. Harper's methods, we never under-