

of an immense wall of ornamental design, surmounted by a handsome cornice, and pierced by three openings or arches. Over the centre arch is the English coat of arms, of large size—gilt—the smaller ones being crowned by an emblematic lamp of learning and pen-and-ink stand of "Brobdignagian proportions," to use the felicitous language of one of the officers. This wall or arch is 110 feet long and 30 feet high, and for it exceptional permission was given by the Director-General. It has on the middle inscribed "Educational Department, Ontario," beneath the Departmental coat of arms. On the left is the Dominion arms, and on the right those of Ontario, while at each extremity are busts of the Queen and the late Prince Albert. Will it be believed that all this is hidden away as much as it can be? "If," said an enthusiastic educationalist to me, "it has not been so costly as certain other triumphal arches at Paris, Milan, and elsewhere, it is really an arch of triumph more pleasant to contemplate, and giving birth to more pleasant associations." The idea of building this arch was a happy one, and is due to Dr. May. It is the only thing which in the least breaks the monotony of the cases sent from Lower Canada, and gives the means of exhibiting an immense quantity of educational appliances. It is completely covered with plane and raised maps made in Toronto, specimens and illustrations of botany, object lessons and natural history, drawing and writing copies, specimens and illustrations of the physical sciences, zoology, astronomy, &c., manufacture and natural productions, maps, and specimens of writing and drawing executed by pupils, the surface being multiplied immensely by hinged frames, screens and other contrivances.

In front are nine large glass cases, probably each 500 feet square, surmounted by busts and globes, one of which is thirty inches in diameter, made in Toronto. These cases are full of scientific apparatus of the latest and most varied character, a description of which would in itself fill a large volume, and for single specimens of the greater part of which we searched in vain throughout the building. In one are library and prize books, books for the education of teachers, text books for public and high schools, also a case devoted to the educational appliances for teaching the deaf and blind; another for object teaching, embracing ethnology, the various classes of zoology, botany, mineralogy, geology, and crystallography; another for the Kindergarten system; others for optics, astronomy, electricity in all its various branches, chemistry, magnetism, galvanism, anatomical models, pneumatics, mechanics, hydraulics, meteorology, acoustics, &c. There are also stands on which are models, made to scale, of various public and collegiate school buildings in Ontario; large working models of stationary and locomotive engines; school furniture, comprising desks, seats, &c. There are rotary stands seven feet high, each having twenty or thirty hinged frames for showing large-size photographs and drawings of school buildings in Ontario. Not less than ten thousand objects are exposed and rendered easy to examine. This department of the Canadian portion of the Exhibition has been arranged by and is under the superintendence of Dr. S. P. May, of the Educational Department, Toronto, who, with his assistants, has been busy at this work for the past three weeks.—*Mail Correspondent.*

The *Mail* correspondent at the Exhibition further writes:—"Sir Charles Reid visited the Educational Department, and showed the greatest interest. He remained for two hours. He said after his visit two years ago he expected a good educational exhibit from Ontario, but that the exhibit transcended all his expectations; and he took particulars of several articles to order for London schools. So impressed was one of the judges in the section of Instruments of Precision and Research with some of those in the Educational Department, that he wished to have them made a special exhibit."

"Mr. Whiting, an English correspondent at Philadelphia, and a writer of considerable repute, thus expressed himself with regard to the Canadian Department, in conversation with the *Mail's* special, a day or two ago:—"Canada astonished me. She makes a great show. In every department she is represented, and well represented, and in the machinery department"—be it remembered Mr. Whiting was educated as an engineer—"her display is perfectly wonderful. The finest fire engine by a long way is sent from Canada. Her school exhibit is not only better than that from any State of this country, but it is the only thing which redeems the British school exhibit; and I have written this home."

2. THE CANADIAN SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

On the Northern side of the Main Building there is an exhibit which is well deserving of the closest scrutiny, and the careful thought of every public-spirited citizen and visitor. It embodies the workings of the Educational Department of Ontario, and shows in a thorough manner the admirable system of training the young idea in vogue "across the border." It may not be generally understood that Canada is composed of two distinct provinces, one

Quebec, the other Ontario, the latter being formerly known as Upper Canada or Canada West. It has an Educational Court similar in its functions to the Department of Public Instruction in France and other countries, which being a branch of the Government pays the fullest attention to the tuition of the young. Being identified, therefore, with the best interests of the community this section of official work receives excellent handling, and as a result its school is equal to, if it does not exceed in quality that of any on the continent. Philadelphia has splendid school-houses, but the methods of instruction practised in them are not, it must be confessed, comparable to those adopted by the Canadian authorities. The exhibit made of this subject is arranged with commendable taste, and the effective manner with which it has been prepared, is due to the exertions of Dr. S. P. May, of the Educational Department of Toronto. Eleven large cases are situated in the hall, and space is provided for special features upon a wall 30 feet high and 110 feet long. The Educational court is represented by specimens of philosophical instruments, maps, charts, diagrams, text books, which are kept in the department for the purpose of supplying the public and high schools with material for the instruction of their pupils. By a special arrangement made by the Government of Ontario these articles are furnished to all those schools receiving government aid, at half their cost. This is one of the manifold advantages of the system, which works, Dr. May says, to a charm. As an illustration of the cheapness with which the schools are supplied, English publications which are sold at one shilling sterling are provided to the schools at nine cents, Canadian Currency. The best arrangements are made both in Europe and this country with publishers, and then the Government disposes of them at 50 per cent. of their original cost. For instance, a book which, in the retail trade here, brings \$1, is sold to the pupils for 35 cents. This plan encourages the prize system which it is contended is greatly superior to the library method, especially in the rural districts. It not only inspires emulation among the children, but makes them ambitious, assists the book trade and creates a taste for reading. Prize books are much esteemed, the youth struggles for them, and a healthy rivalry is formed, which leads to the best results. They are enabled to collect a good class of literature; the mental condition is improved, and, through government assistance, they are carried into spheres of usefulness which, otherwise, they would never reach. Samples of standard volumes, in bright, ornamental covers, are shown, including Chambers' Encyclopedia, bound in calf, and furnished at the rate of \$1 50 per copy, Hugh Miller's works for 35 cents do., and resplendent gilt back, half-calf books for 60 cents per volume. The good work is attested in the *Journal of Education* and Ontario Education Reports, full sets of which are on hand, giving a history of the plans pursued from their inception to the present time.

From the Northern wall are suspended maps of the Hemisphere, Quebec, the United States and the general divisions of the earth, together with relief or raised maps, showing the physical features of the country, and charts and diagrams illustrating every branch of natural science, all of which were made in Ontario.

Two cases are devoted to the display of articles used in object teaching one of which is employed in the higher grades of schools, and including a collection of mammalia, birds, reptiles and fishes, all Canadian and American in character. For ethnological instruction, there are busts of celebrated men representing every country, which are constantly before the pupils while they are studying, and help to serve to make firm impressions upon the memories. For botanical tuition, models of flowers and plants are used in connection with Gray's book of botany, an excellent American work. For teaching Zoology, Mineralogy and Conchology, small cabinets are used, shewing specimens of the principal minerals and shells and their applications to the arts and sciences. In the schools where natural history is taught, cabinets containing two hundred specimens of useful substances of food, medicine and clothing are employed, and for the chemical departments another cabinet is used, provided with apparatus for performing two hundred experiments. As an indication of their cheapness, it may be said that the former are disposed of to the schools for \$5, while they would cost \$5 in England; and the latter for the same price, while they would bring \$40 at retail here. Furthermore, they are of the greatest utility and commend themselves to tutors everywhere. The kindergarten system is illustrated by diminutive models of bridges, railroads, and mining operations, which are beautiful in themselves, and must be highly attractive to the youthful eye. Electricity, magnetism, galvanism and light, are created by instruments displayed in another case and adjacent to it is one containing pneumatic apparatus, embracing an air pump in which the cylinders are constructed of glass, the movement of the piston thereby being visible, also objects to show the employment of heat and steam, the appliances of mechanics, hydrostatics and hydraulics. In the teaching of geography and astronomy, globes and atlases