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BRANDON'S GREATEST CHRISTMAS.

There seems to be no dissenting voice to this highly interesting and important proposition: This has been Brandon's greatest and most prosperous Christmas season. During last week every store in the city, so far as we could report, reported the largest Christmas business in its history. The streets were full and elaborate as never before, and they were exhausted by living as never before. More money was spent for Christmas in Brandon this year than in any previous year.

What interests the citizens of a loyal nature chiefly about this is the significant showing it makes for Brandon's present prosperity. Brandon is a prosperous, fully employed, well paid and thriving community. If it were not it could not have made this record. We submit these facts for the consideration of whoever there may be—if there be any such indeed—who have doubt about Brandon's present prosperity or its future promise.

ENGLAND'S BACKWARD CHILDREN.

A glance at the medical officers' report on the health of school children shows that throughout England one fifth of the elementary school pupils are in the low grades and are quite incapable of educational im-

provement. That is, they are practically mental inefficient. The tremendous bearing of such a condition on the future of England, socially and industrially, cannot be disguised or ignored. It comes as a natural sequence to the revelations of the physical unfitness revealed by so many English workingmen at the time of enlisting in Manchester and other centres for service in the Boer war. At that time the physical deterioration of the English workingman, his stunted growth, his lack of bodily vigor, called forth some gloomy predictions of national physical decadence. It is not at all surprising that a considerable proportion of the children of that generation of English workingmen should lack in physical or mental virility. The London Times says that the deterioration in the children constitutes a serious national evil.

Not only because of the hereditary aspects of the case, but because the environment of these children can only promise a continuance of the stunting, dwarfing conditions to aggravate inherent disabilities, the situation must cause alarm. The general causes of the defective physique and mentality of the children are not hidden. Insufficient feeding, wretched housing and overcrowding are each principal contributors. Tests that were made in London of giving free meals to half-fed children of needy parents showed that with sufficient nourishment the children gained height and weight remarkably compared with the underfed children. The improvement of the school fed children over the underfed was as high as 100 per cent. That all housing and overcrowding are stunts of child development has been repeatedly shown by long extended tests. The infant mortality in one room tenements is four times as high as in four room tenements and almost in like proportion the development of the surviving children will proceed. That the physical impairment should be accompanied by so much mental deficiency is only natural, but the evil is so marked that it must give rise to serious thoughts of the future.

THE NEED FOR TEACHERS

The report of the Hon. G. R. Coldwell, minister of education for the province, supplies ample food for reflection. The "man in the street" on reading this report is justified in enquiring "Are we getting value for our money?"

If education means teaching and preparing people to live and work and to make the best of themselves and get the best out of their existence, are our efforts effective or are they a sheer destruction of time and money? We have no hesitation in asserting that the minister has struck the right note.

We rejoice to note that emphasis is laid upon the "Three R's." A collection of confused and superficial information is not knowledge.

How many realize that the final object of education is the fitting of the individual for the fulfilling of his duty towards his community, but the attainment of such an object must necessarily cover a large field.

First, we must admit that no knowledge is intrinsically bad, only ignorance is bad, we must once and for all cease to confound ignorance with innocence.

Good and bad are terms which only apply to acts, to the use of which knowledge is put.

The first branch of education must commence at home, and is the teaching of obedience; the child, by nature, knows nothing of right and wrong, and must be first guided by the dictates of another. Are we in the position to supply the need by the material we are turning out as teachers? To our mind this is the fundamental point in connection with the whole question, and the one on which the minister, with reason, largely dwells. When the teaching profession is made sufficiently attractive for young people to enter, then and only then can we claim that we are doing the best for the nation, for is not every ignorant citizen a flaw in the structure of free government?

The conditions of city life produce children who may be converted into efficient men and women if they are intelligently fed and clothed, and subjected to a systematic physical training until the age of manhood and womanhood. Part of this must be done directly by the state, and part must be left to the office of trained and efficient and competent parenthood.

The habits of self control will be established and the needs for compulsion reduced to a minimum. Where Brandon's superintendent of education can produce such excellent results on a voluntary basis, wherein lies the need for compulsion? It must be the school and class tone and spirit which he has inculcated and which is worthy of emulation and note.

Today for all the children of Ontario there is compulsory education for a period of five or six years. Anarchists themselves would hardly object to that requirement on the ground that it is out of keeping with the spirit of individual liberty in which this country glories. Instead of being regarded as a restriction the obligation to attend school should be appreciated as a principle and on all hands should be recognized as in the interests alike of the individual and the state.

There is apparently enough Christmas spirit in Brandon to hang over into the New Year.

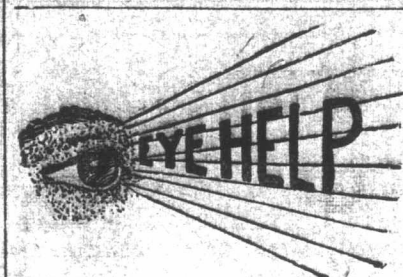
And now, with the burial of the mayoralty fight, several important needs in the city have met an inglorious end.

On hearing the demands of the allies Turkey declined to play Santa Claus, preferring to talk it over until next Christmas.

While drinking liquor until 2 a.m. may not be much like prohibition, it creates a great demand for ice water later in the day.

And, although 13 is an unlucky number, do let us hope next year will not find us with many vain regrets at its close.

Judging by the statement of the city treasurer on the result of the tax season, the much talked of money stringency has not yet reached Brandon.



If you tear

A garment, do you take it to
A Harness Maker
to be repaired, just because he
uses a needle and thread?

No, decidedly not!

You have it looked after by
A Tailor or Seamstress,
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"CROWE the Expert"

Is the only practical, qualified
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This, strong, constantly keen-edged blade is made of the toughest nickle steel, the tops are made of fine aluminum alloy. They are skates enthusiastically used and endorsed by some of our foremost hockey skaters and by the Canadian public at large.

Send for free copy of the Hockey and Skaters' Year Book. It contains hockey records for the year and general information of value to skaters. Ask your dealer for Automobile Skates, or write.

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The spirit of the Season prompt us to express to you our appreciation for the Courtesies extended to us during the past year, and to wish you still greater prosperity and success for the New Year.
CAMPBELL & CAMPBELL.

Annual Clearance Sale at CAMPBELL & CAMPBELL'S

This has been our record year and to commemorate it, we are having a Great 20 per cent Discount Sale during the month of January. All our prices are marked in Plain figures, so that you are enabled to figure your own reductions. This is a great opportunity for those about to be married. Call and inspect the values. We will be delighted to wait on you. The quotations given below will illustrate the reductions we are offering.

6ft Extension Dining Table
Quarter cut oak finish, usually \$8.75
Now **\$7.00**

Buffet
Quarter cut Oak finish, bevelled plate glass usually \$17.00
Now **\$13.65**

Sideboard
Quarter cut Oak, bevelled glass, splendid value at \$14.50
Now **11.60**

Dining Room Chairs
A large and varied assortment, style and prices to suit all.

**Bedroom
Suites**
Dresser and Stand quarter cut Oak finish, usually \$12.75
Now **10.20**

Iron Beds
In great variety. A medium priced bed, good and strong, well worth our usual price \$10.00
Now **8.00**

Brass Beds
Any size. Exceptional value at \$18.00
Now **\$14.40**

Ostermoor supplies are not reduced, as we are under contract to sell at the regulation prices.

Parlor, Den and Library Furniture in great variety, all showing the same generous reductions

Our Carpet, Linoleum and Curtain Departments are replete with the very latest styles and colors. A larger selection you cannot find in the City.

Tapestry Rugs
9x10 usually \$10.00
Now **\$8.00**

Brussels Rugs
9x10 usually \$21.00
Now **\$16.80**

Seamless Axminster Rugs
8-3x11-6 \$35.00 and \$45.00
Now \$28.00 and \$36.00

**Our famous Scotch
Printed Linoleum well
worth our original prices.**
Usually 55c, 65c, now 44c and 52c.
Twenty-one designs to choose from
in 12ft wide. Prices are 65 and 75c
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