

The Free Press,
LONDON, ONT.
Friday, December 21, 1888.

PRACTICAL EDUCATION.

The idea is becoming more marked in the public mind that a great deal of that which has gone by the name of education in this country is not that kind of instruction which leads up to the best results. This is showing itself in various ways. And one of the most important movements in connection with it is the proposed reorganization of the Practical School of Science in the interests of labor. At a time when the European nations, as well as the American, are doing all that is possible to lessen the cost of production by means of better taught labor, it will not do for Canada to lag behind. The more expert and intelligent a workman is the greater value he is to himself and those who may have occasion to avail themselves of his services. A poor workman is a hindrance rather than an advantage in any establishment. The well-instructed mechanic is always sure of employment at high wages, because it is more profitable to employ those than to be bothered with that class of bunglers who in the printing trade are called "black-smiths." They are always in the way, and can never be relied upon to turn out a respectable piece of work. And the reason is that they have not been properly taught the trade or profession that they assume to follow. They may have picked it up in a "lovely sort of manner," but they are devoid of that true insight which makes all the difference as between a competent and a non-competent mechanic. The proposal to follow in the footsteps taken elsewhere, to establish technical schools of education, which has been brought forward by the Hon. G. W. Ross at a recent public meeting at Toronto, is one that should be well received by the country over. As we understand it, such schools will afford opportunities for the advancement of mechanics of all kinds in practical as well as theoretical knowledge; thus giving valuable opportunities to the ambitious artisan to perfect himself in his industry, no matter what it may happen to be. Mr. Ross set forth the fact that many things are now imported into this country which could be well made amongst ourselves if the requisite knowledge and experience were at hand. Amongst these he mentioned blacking, imported to the value of \$54,130; black lead, \$25,799; bluing, \$37,080; drugs and chemicals, \$1,101,967; fertilizers, \$6,988; gutta serena, \$546,187; ink, etc., \$71,943; oils, minerals, etc., \$1,236,878; paints and colors, \$553,549; soaps, \$97,679; varnishes, \$113,131. He contended that these things, through knowledge of applied chemistry, ought to be manufactured in this country. Further, he had investigated the importations of manufactured articles, with the following results:—Brass manufactures, \$404,161; earthenware, \$750,691; fancy goods, \$2,480,000; glass manufactures, \$1,209,482; iron and steel manufactures, \$9,745,957; leather, \$1,097,372; paper, \$1,233,591; wood, \$1,149,324. The cost of labor enters very largely into the value of these products. And it is altogether in line with the National Policy that such articles, and many others not now made here, should be so manufactured within the Dominion. And if they can be made to supplant those that are imported by the application of the requisite amount of expert knowledge, so much the better for the country at large as well as the workmen who may be individually interested. Technical training is a matter that is forcing itself upon general attention. That kind of knowledge which can be had from books is necessary, but so far teaching has been discontinued just when the youth leaves school; the very time, as some contend, that the inoculation in the duties and necessities of life should commence. One of the speakers—Professor Dickson, was of the opinion that no little instruction of a practical nature could be afforded at the public schools. But it may be remarked that large numbers of children are removed from those schools at an early period so as to be able to earn something to help to swell the revenue of the family. The old system of apprenticeship, under which a lad became an efficient workman in the course of years, has been very much discouraged in this country, partly by the workmen themselves, and to some extent by the employers of labor, who prefer to pay for experience rather than be called upon to educate in experience. But however that may be, the fact has impressed itself on many people that if Canada is to maintain its position as a manufacturing country, to hold its own in the general scramble for existence that is going on the world over, it can only be by using those means which have been resorted to elsewhere—that of the technical education of workmen so as to enable them to hold their own amongst the highly-cultured ranks of labor, which—thanks to the system of practical instruction current in European countries—are sending forth superior articles of machinery and general manufactures from a thousand different points.

WIMAN AND THE WIKES.

Canada has been indebted to Mr. Erasmus Wiman for several suggestions of late years. The latest and most suggestive emanating from him is a proposition to the Montreal Telegraph Company to accept from the Great North-western, of which he is President, a reduction to 6 per cent. dividends from 8, as bargained for. It is set forth by Mr. Wiman as a reason for this refreshing request that the Great North-western Telegraph Company is no longer earning an income sufficient to pay dividends at the rate of 8 per cent. The short crops, the use of the telephone and competition of the Canadian Pacific Telegraph Co. are alleged as the combined causes of the shortage. Nothing is said as to the amount of "dead head" messages sent over the wires back and forth in regard to the various political and commercial "fads" which Mr. Wiman has stood sponsor for. Were the reports of that gentleman's speeches which were telegraphed charged up at the rates which the public have to pay, the necessity for default might not have been so pressing. The proposal was considered at a meeting of the Montreal Directors and shareholders on Wednesday, amid a strong exhibition of anger, and a reply was sent which is likely to cause a blister. It was partly as follows:—

THE CATTLE QUARANTINE.

As before stated, a strong attempt has been made by the parties interested to break down the quarantine rules in force on the North-west frontier, so as to admit cattle from the American States and Territories to mingle with Canadian herds. A despatch from Ottawa says there is little likelihood that the laws will be modified for this purpose. One reason of this is that the letting down of the bars in any part of the Dominion would be held as a sufficient excuse in England to place Canadian bullocks on the same level as those from Texas, that is, that they would have to be killed on arrival. It is only the maintenance of a rigid quarantine that gives us the exceptional privilege now enjoyed of landing our cattle alive. At the Montreal Veterinary Medical Association meeting held a few days ago, a paper was read by Mr. McWhinnie on contagious pleuro-pneumonia in cattle. He gave a full description of the history, causes, symptoms, pathology and means to be adopted to prevent this most serious scourge. It has caused a loss of millions of dollars in every country in which it has obtained a foothold. As the disease is always due to contagion, it is absolutely necessary that the entrance of cattle from infected to any other country should be very carefully watched. If it unfortunately made its appearance no time should be lost in slaughtering not only the diseased but all that had come in direct or indirect contact with the disease. Mr. McWhinnie condemned inoculation as only likely to perpetuate rather than eradicate the plague. The chairman said that Canadians have good reason to congratulate themselves on the wisdom and foresight that has induced the Government to adopt and maintain such a rigid system of quarantine against all cattle imported from infected countries. Canada is to-day perfectly free from pleuro-pneumonia, and it never has existed here. Furthermore, it could not, by any possibility enter unless the present rigorous system of quarantine was relaxed. When we read of the losses other nations have sustained through the careless importation of animals without any system of quarantine, the trifling inconvenience of detaining such cattle ninety days at the port of entry is amply compensated for by our freedom from contagious diseases.

THE WELL-KNOWN AUSTRIAN TRAVELLER.

Ernst von Hesse-Wartegg, contributor to *Petermann's Mittheilungen* an entertaining account of his recent explorations in Northern Venezuela, and especially of the Lake of Tacarigua or Valencia, interesting as being one of the three fresh-water lakes of any size in South America. He notes but few changes in the country since the time of Humboldt's visit, except that the cultivation of indigo and cotton, its principal productions then, had been entirely supplanted by coffee and cacao, the amount exported of the former having increased from one million pounds in 1844 to forty million in 1886. In some districts, agriculture is being relinquished for cattle-raising, with a consequent destruction of forests and a material decrease of the waters of the lake. This is now thirty miles long by about nine broad, and though sixty thousand people live near its shores, it is almost deserted, only four small canoes being upon it.

THE NEW YORK COUNCIL HAVE ADOPTED AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING THAT BARRELS, BASKETS, CRATES AND BAGS OF GRAIN OFFERED FOR SALE IN THE PUBLIC STREETS MUST WEIGH MINIMUM—Barrel of spinach, 40 pounds; of sprouts, 50; bushel of potatoes, 50; of turnips, carrots, beets and parsnips, 50; of sweet potatoes or onions, 55; of tomatoes, 60; bag of string beans or wax beans, 40; of cranberry or Lima beans or green peas, 50. Every package must be marked plainly with its correct weight in letters and figures at least one inch high. Fine of \$10 for false marks of weight or other violation of the ordinance.

CURRENT TOPICS.

A difficult problem is presented to French women desiring to conform to the fashion of wearing flowers by the way in which certain flowers have become attached to political ideas. For example, the violet is the symbol of the Bonapartists. Boulanger claims the carnation. The cornflower is recognized as the flower of the rose has been appropriated by the Orleanists. The suggestion is made that neutrality can be indicated only by a bouquet of all the flowers or none at all.

Another cast steel gun of six inches calibre will soon be ready for trial at Annapolis. This gun is open heated steel. The gun which recently burst at the proving ground was of Bessemer steel. Both of these guns were cast solid and bored out. Dr. Galling, of Galling gun fame, insists that the guns should be cast with a core and that the cooling should begin on the inside. It is probable that this method will be tried before the cast steel gun is abandoned. Cast steel guns have been made in Switzerland and found to be serviceable.

A Bridgeport, Conn., man sent his wife and family off for the day, expecting to follow soon afterward. He went to his house, dressed for the occasion, locked all the doors and windows, and made ready to board the next horse-car. It came unaware, and he rushed to catch it. Going out of the front door, he slammed it upon the tails of his coat. He struggled in vain to free the garment, and finally got out of the house, but he found a cellar window that he could open, crawled in, went up stairs, unlocked the front door, released his coat, put it on, and was just in time to take the next horse-car that came along.

Another Thames tunnel is to be built at London, England, and the Metropolitan Board of Works is advertising for proposals for the construction of a foot way tunnel of cast iron, lined with brickwork, across and under the river Thames at Blackwall, with approaches thereto, on both sides of the river, partly in tunnel and partly in cut and cover and open cutting, together with temporary landing stages and other works in connection therewith. The tunnel portion of the work is to be executed under compressed air. Bids will be opened Dec. 20.

AT THE LAST MEETING OF THE BOSTON SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY, MR. F. A. BATES CALLED ATTENTION TO THE EFFECT OF THE GREAT GALE OF NOVEMBER 25 UPON BIRDS.

The plow, a bird formerly common in New England, but of late years exceedingly rare, was found by sportsmen along the south shore by the thousands. The birds were in good condition, showing that they had not been without food for a very long time, but they were very much exhausted and approached by sportsmen. The habit of these birds at the present season is nowhere to the north of the Carolinas, so that, if it is only the maintenance of a rigid quarantine that gives us the exceptional privilege now enjoyed of landing our cattle alive. At the Montreal Veterinary Medical Association meeting held a few days ago, a paper was read by Mr. McWhinnie on contagious pleuro-pneumonia in cattle. He gave a full description of the history, causes, symptoms, pathology and means to be adopted to prevent this most serious scourge. It has caused a loss of millions of dollars in every country in which it has obtained a foothold. As the disease is always due to contagion, it is absolutely necessary that the entrance of cattle from infected to any other country should be very carefully watched. If it unfortunately made its appearance no time should be lost in slaughtering not only the diseased but all that had come in direct or indirect contact with the disease. Mr. McWhinnie condemned inoculation as only likely to perpetuate rather than eradicate the plague. The chairman said that Canadians have good reason to congratulate themselves on the wisdom and foresight that has induced the Government to adopt and maintain such a rigid system of quarantine against all cattle imported from infected countries. Canada is to-day perfectly free from pleuro-pneumonia, and it never has existed here. Furthermore, it could not, by any possibility enter unless the present rigorous system of quarantine was relaxed. When we read of the losses other nations have sustained through the careless importation of animals without any system of quarantine, the trifling inconvenience of detaining such cattle ninety days at the port of entry is amply compensated for by our freedom from contagious diseases.

THE NEW NOTES WHICH THE BANK OF CANADA IS ABOUT TO ISSUE WILL BE IN TWO COLORS—blue and pink—and so blended as to produce a general tint approaching violet, says the Paris correspondent of the London Daily Telegraph. "It is believed at the bank that these notes are inimitable except at the expenditure of time and money that would effectually check enterprise in that direction. The new fifty and hundred franc notes are now being printed and those of five hundred and a thousand francs will soon leave the engraver's hands. The new notes, respecting which the chemists and engravers are so confident, have been produced in a twentieth part of the time spent on those which are now to be gradually withdrawn from circulation. Mr. Barre was three years engaged upon the model of the present thousand franc note, and that of the hundred franc was five years in the artist's hands."

AN OFFICER OF ONE OF THE GREAT SAFEMAKING CONCERNS TALKED VERY FRANKLY ABOUT HIS BUSINESS THE OTHER DAY. SAID HE: "WE DO NOT MAKE A SAFE THAT WE WOULD GUARANTEE AGAINST BURGLARS. THEY ARE AS SMART AS WE ARE. SAFE MAKING IS LIKE THE SCIENCE OF WARFARE. EACH NEW IMPROVEMENT IS MET BY SOMETHING THAT BEATS IT AND SO ANOTHER STEP IN ADVANCE HAS TO BE TAKEN. WE HAVE TO TRY TO KEEP AHEAD OF THE BURGLARS. WE HAVE GOT SO FAR AS TO MAKE SAFES OF SOLID METAL AND TREMENDOUS WEIGHT THAT WE WILL INSURE AGAINST DRILLS AND ALL OTHER LOSSES FOR FORTY EIGHT HOURS IN AN OPEN LOT, BUT WE CANNOT INSURE THEM AGAINST TREMENDOUS EXPLOSIVES. GOOD BURGLARS CARRY FEW TOOLS NOW. THEY TAKE HIGH EXPLOSIVES IN THEIR COMPACT FORM AND LITTLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR BLOWING UP PUTTING THE EXPLOSIVES IN THE CRACKS OF THE SAFES. THEY USED TO USE POWDER, BUT IT IS NOT POWERFUL ENOUGH FOR BLOWING UP LOOSE SOLID DOORS THAT WEIGH MANY TONS. WE FIRST GOT AHEAD OF THEM BY PUTTING INDIUM RUBBER IN THE PLACES WHERE THE DOORS MET THE FRAMES, BUT THEY BEAT THAT BY POURING IN AN ACID THAT EATS THE RUBBER OUT. THEY PUT IN SMALL WEDGES INCREASING IN SIZE TILL THEY MAKE AN OPENING, THEN PUTTY UP ALL THE REST OF THE CRACK, PUT IN THEIR EXPLOSIVE AND ATTACH A FUSE. WE DO BEAT THEIR DRILLS, THOUGH. WE MAKE THE SAFES OF COMBINED LAYERS OF HARD AND SOFT METALS. THE DRILLS THAT WORK THROUGH HARD METAL WILL NOT WORK IN SOFTER METAL, AND AS THEY CANNOT TELL WHICH IS WHICH, OR WHERE EACH METAL IS, THEY ARE DEFIED. THE BEST OF OUR DEVICES, THOUGH, IS THE USE OF LITTLE STEEL BALLS IN THE WALLS OF BURGLAR-PROOF VULTS. WHEN THE DRILLS STRIKE THEM THEY GET NO HOLD, AND EVEN IF A BALL SHOULD BE HELD AND BROKEN THROUGH ANOTHER WOULD FALL IN ITS PLACE."

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ROBES: Buffalo, Wolf, Chinese Goat, Etc.

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A SURE CURE FOR BILIOUSNESS, CONSTIPATION, INDIGESTION, DIZZINESS, SICK HEADACHE, AND OBSCURE OR TWO STOMACH, LIVER AND BOWELS. THEY ARE MILD, THOROUGH AND PROMPT IN ACTION, AND GIVE A VALUABLE AND RELIABLE REMEDY IN THE TREATMENT AND CURE OF CHRONIC AND OBSTINATE DISEASES.

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DOUGLASS H. GRAND, AUCTIONEER.

TREASURER'S Sale of Lands

IN THE CITY OF LONDON FOR TAXES.

City of London. By virtue of a warrant issued to the effect that the Twentieth day of November, A. D. 1888, and to me directed as treasurer of the said city, commanding me to levy in accordance with the provision of the Revised Statutes of the Province of Ontario, chapter 181, in that behalf, on the lands hereinafter mentioned and described for the taxes in arrears thereon respectively and costs, I hereby give notice that unless said taxes and costs be sooner paid I shall proceed to sell by public auction, at the City Hall in the City of London, on Monday, February 25th, A. D. 1889, at the hour of ten o'clock in the forenoon, the said lands, or so much thereof as may be sufficient to discharge the said taxes and all costs and charges in and about the sale of said lands as authorized by the said statute.

Description.

ADRIAN ST., west side—

13 Southernly 1/4 acre, Nash survey

17 Whole lot, 1/4 acre, Nash survey

22 Whole lot, 1/4 acre, Nash survey

24 Northernly 1/4 acre of lot

28 Southernly 1/4 acre of lot

30 Southernly 1/4 acre of lot

32 Southernly 1/4 acre of lot

BATHURST ST., north side—

11 Princess Ave., north side

14 Whole lot, 1/4 acre, Cameron's survey

17 Whole lot, 1/4 acre, Cameron's survey

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