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THE TIMES.

A criticism of college and school appointments will be found in this issue of SPECTATOR under the heading "Educational Protection." To one portion of the criticism I should take exception, that which demands the application of the N. P. to educational matters. When a position requires to be filled in a public school or a college, those who have the appointment should first of all and altogether set their minds upon getting the best possible man for that particular place. They have no right to give any weight to the fact that he was educated at a certain venerable place, but should be careful only about character and qualifications. Oxford has turned out many able men and many unable men, and so has Cambridge, but it is not to be wondered at that a new country should look to an old, and believe that those who have taken honours at either of the ancient universities may be relied upon for capacity in their own particular line. That some mistakes may have been made and the wrong man chosen is quite believable; but then it is certain that in the majority of cases, the appointments have been well made.

The important point in the gravamen is the statement that college and school authorities have overlooked merit which stood hat in hand at their own very door. But that could only be proved by the citation of individual cases and then it would remain a matter of opinion, and the authorities would probably hold that they deem themselves competent to do the work committed to them. *Nihil Verius* is not a snubbed Canadian, so his words may be taken as the result of real inquiry and patriotic sentiment; which is a good and sound reason for investigating the matter.

The Molson's Bank shareholders' meeting this week was probably one of the most satisfactory of the kind held for a long time past. Not only because it showed a good dividend, but because it was made apparent that the management had been careful and thorough. I said at the last meeting of this bank's shareholders that the report had a look of honesty about it, and gave promise of real and careful business. All that has been done, as the present report will show. The Directors have themselves, along with the Manager, inspected all the branch banks, not trusting to the reports of officials. The \$42,000 written off for bad debts, include all that can be included, and the fact that \$40,000 were added to the Rest account shows that there is a determined intention to put the affairs of the Bank upon the soundest possible basis. Mr. Workman, the President, and his fellow-directors, deserve well of the shareholders, and the Manager deserves what he enjoys, the complete confidence of Directors and shareholders.

The Ladies of the Hervey Institute held a very successful annual meeting last Tuesday. They are doing a splendid work in the city, and are deserving of all the support they need.

It seems a pity that the electors of Brome could not be allowed to carry on their own little political strife over the election of a successor to the late Mr. Chandler in the Dominion Parliament without the importation of outside politicians. There is no great question before the general public for debate and decision now; the N. P. is a *fait accompli*, and there is no widespread desire to return to free trade; the Premier keeps his great majority in working order and well content, and there seems to be small reason for bringing down the great guns of the Cabinet to orate over this comparatively unimportant matter. Bringing political speakers from a distance always intensifies the bitterness of local party warfare. It broadens the arena and introduces new elements on which voters can disagree and hate each other. At a general election it is different, for then it is party against party, and every vote may be of importance—but in a case like the present election at Brome neither party nor policy is involved, and the people should be allowed to fight out their local battle in their own local way.

Still, the presence of Sir Charles Tupper and the Hon. Mr. Pope was not an unmitigated evil, for they made a most important announcement—which I am surprised the papers have not noticed, viz., that the Pacific Railway is to be built without any further cost in money to the Dominion. This must be true, for it is said with authority, and we may congratulate ourselves upon having done better, through our Ministers, than we expected, or even hoped. Of course the details of the scheme are still withheld from us, but this throws a little more light upon the matter, and every fresh revelation is a fresh surprise, but not in the way of disappointment. If things go on in this way the *Globe* and its followers will find their vocation gone and die from want of something to oppose. According to the latest accounts we shall not be called upon to pay a subsidy of twenty-five millions of dollars, besides the portions of the road already built, but simply hand over a certain amount of land. Nothing can be more easy, and more desirable, and it looks as if Sir John has succeeded in getting together the best tempered Syndicate the whole commercial world could produce. At any rate, no Canadian can complain, and Sir John may safely announce that he has decided upon the day for general thanksgiving.

Another benefit accruing from their presence there was a remarkably able speech by Sir Charles Tupper. He spoke in an earnest, honest, statesmanlike manner, throwing down the gauntlet bravely to all his accusers. He said "that if any man could show that he had failed in his duty in the slightest respect, or that in the discharge of the duties of the responsible office he filled, he had done anything but study the real interests of the Canadian people, or had acted in any other than a high-minded, honourable and independent manner, he would consent to retire from his office and from Parliament in disgrace." Now this is a bold challenge, and those who accuse Sir Charles of crookedness and a care for personal interests in the letting of sundry contracts should accept it and make good their words or confess their sin. At all cost to himself he invites investigation, and I am of the opinion that he has not the slightest reason to fear the result.

The talk that Sir Charles is about to leave the Government and become one of the Syndicate for building the Pacific Railway is worse than absurd. Why he should do this no one seems to know, for he can have no claim to belong to the Syndicate, and he has many reasons for remaining in the Government; his position and prospects were never better, and it would be foolish for him to think of giving up political life for some years to come.