

# SECULAR SCHOOLS

**A Vigorous Arraignment of the System in Ontario.**

**The Rush Into the Professions.**

**Millions of Dollars Spent by the Administration—Results Attained Disappointing.**

**A Striking Array of Facts and Figures.**

[CANADIAN MAGAZINE.]

LIFE is a battle of hard facts against theory. The battlefield of experimental democracy is strewn with disappointed hopes, aspirations cut short, and castles in the air cruelly destroyed. What hopes we in Ontario built upon the benign and beneficent influences of free education? Brought to the door of the humblest cottage, it would enter in and make the lives of the people happier and more true. Labour would become more efficient and more dignified, and before the bright light of knowledge the hideous phantoms of vice and crime would fly away. With what care have we studied the systems of other countries, and, step by step, built up and perfected a system of our own, leading by natural grades from the public school and kindergarten at the cottage door to the university of Toronto! With what pride and natural pride, we look at the crowning point of our system, which commands the respect and admiration of the whole American Continent. And we receive with complacent satisfaction the congratulations of our visitors who attend the great educational conventions which from time to time are held in our midst.

It is, indeed, hard to have to admit that the Educational System, of which we hoped so much, must be ranked among the disappointments of life; that it has not decreased crime and that, instead of an angel of light, it has proved an octopus with an angel's face, reaching out its tentacles into the houses and pockets of the people, degrading our profession and depopulating the country. The language is strong; but so are the facts.

There are twelve departments in our system, and two of these alone, the Public Schools and High Schools, according to the last report of the Minister of Education in the year 1894-'95, cost the Province over four-and-a-half million dollars. In the last twenty years, as was lately pointed out by Mr. Galt in The Week, the expenditure upon these two departments has been seventy-nine million dollars. The sum is enormous. The taxpayer does not grudge the money, but, in a quiet way, he has shown a certain feeling of diffidence in the wisdom of the authorities. In the year 1891 the Provincial Government passed an Act providing that County Councils may require a portion of the liability of the County to be paid by the County pupils in fees, but such fees must not exceed one dollar per month. The popularity of this concession was shown by the fact that within one year from the passing of the Act there were seventy-seven High Schools in which fees were exacted.

Why, we naturally ask, have educationists been allowed, without criticism or comment, to force upon the people a system of higher education which, it would seem, they grudgingly pay for? Why am I forced, whether I wish it or not, to be my brother's teacher? The primary duty of a government is, surely, to govern. We understand that the functions of a government are extended to education because it is for the public good; 1, that no man should be brought up without an education, and so become a possible burden on the State; 2, that no man should be lost to the State from the inability of his parents to pay for his education; 3, that every man should be able to make an intelligent use of his rights of suffrage.

How does the Ontario Educational System serve the public good? Experience does not seem to show that education such as we have makes people more moral. In the year 1860 the total number of commitments in the Province for various offences was 5,655; in 1880, 12,531; an increase of 3,876, as against an estimated increase in population of 611,000. Juvenile crime has increased to an alarming extent; but we complacently, in the face of statistics which prove to the contrary, attribute this phenomenon to the importation of pauper children from Europe. At the Spring Assizes held in Hamilton this year, when the Grand Jury, in their presentment, referred to the number of serious crimes committed by youths which had come before them, and placed the blame, as usual, upon the children imported from English cities, Mr. Justice Street, the presiding judge, in his reply, pointed out that the young men convicted were all brought up, with one exception, in the Public Schools of that city, where, he said, "they were simply taught reading, writing, arithmetic and a smattering of other things, but they were not taught the difference between right and wrong."

One of the most fruitful sources of crime, as was pointed out by Mr. Kutherford Hayes, ex-President of the United States, at Cincinnati, in 1890, is "the inordinate eagerness to acquire wealth and to get money sufficient to satisfy the desires of the extravagant or the profligate, which is so prevalent in these days," and this desire is undoubtedly fostered by the spread of free education. Which, we may ask, is the greater menace to the State, the educated man or the ignorant man? Surely the man most capable of mischief,

than is attached to any other of their useful functions." In this connection we would refer our readers to an excellent paper written by Mr. McMillan of Toronto, entitled "Defects in our Public School System," read before the Annual Convention of the Ontario Educational Association in 1894, in which he says: "What becomes of this large army of recruits? For the fifteen years already mentioned (1877 to 1892) the total increase of teachers in actual service was 1,868, or a yearly output of 125. To supply this increase of 125 we have the annual output of the Model Schools, numbering on the average 1,200." The natural conclusion to be drawn from the fact that 125 positions are annually filled by 1,200 teachers, is that each teacher remains something less than two months at his vocation; and the pupils of the Public Schools are subjected to a perpetual succession of tyros, in order that the High Schools may be fed by young men who are attracted by an immediate prospect of making a living as a stepping-stone to the already over-crowded professions.

It is a difficult thing to retrace our steps; but there are two points upon which we could place the finger of reform. If the salaries of the Public School teachers were raised, if every teacher was subjected to a more severe training and compelled, as in Prussia, to pledge himself to serve as a teacher in the Dominion for at least three years, we should have fewer youths seeking a livelihood through higher education who ought to be working in the fields, and we should have better teachers for our children.

There is no reason why I should be compelled to be my brother's teacher, if I, as a citizen of the State, receive no benefit. The standard of the Public Schools should be raised and made as efficient as possible, so as to give a complete common school education. But I, as a taxpayer, should not be asked to contribute to the payment of indiscriminate higher education, beyond that point where it affects the course of the pupils' lives, because an excessive increase of those who receive education beyond that point has been shown to be a detriment and not a benefit to the community. Higher education, therefore, above this limit should be made as nearly as possible self-maintaining. At the same time, the poor man who cannot afford to pay for his education, and is likely to prove a benefit and an ornament to the State, might well be provided for by a system of scholarships which would give him free education, and maintain him until he is able to earn a living by his profession.

The evil is averted to every man who thinks. But how is it to be remedied? If indiscriminate higher education has proved a failure, it has been belated to the skies. And Canada is not alone in this. We cannot look to our politicians—though, unfortunately, in this country, education is under their control—for the people's representatives ride on the wave of public opinion; they are not the pioneers of thought. Party politicians, too, will always stand by their leaders. We cannot expect our Minister of Education to admit that he has gone too far, and the leaders of the Opposition are waiting for the tide. Nor can we look to the Press, for it has joined heart and soul in the worship of this popular god. We have good reason to believe that the big guns of our leading newspapers are loaded, but they hesitate to fire them off until public opinion is ripe and they feel themselves compelled. The teachers, again, whose attention must naturally be turned to the question, will never be so foolish as to quarrel with their own head and butter, whatever in their hearts they may think; and every year we may expect a return of the enthusiasm which is characteristic of the conventions that they hold.

If, then, there is to be any change, based upon common sense and the lessons taught by results, we must look to a full and free discussion by the people themselves in our Farmers' Institutes and Boards of Trade; for here, free from the disturbing influence of politics, these questions can be debated, and it is only those who are supposed to be benefited that can start the ball rolling and criticize without fear the wisdom of their own impartial liberality.

ERNEST HEATON.

What happened to the surplus, who could not find room in Ontario? It is significant that during the year 1894, when the United States was swept by a financial cyclone, which prevented many from venturing upon an unknown and precarious sea, in spite of the general depression prevailing in Ontario, the numbers of the practising lawyers increased by 132, more than double the average of increase in the other years during this period.

That the general intelligence of the people has improved is beyond question. But our Mechanics' Institutes and Public Libraries tell a disappointing tale. The literature which is read is composed of the lighter magazines and novels. We are not thorough and we are not studious.

These are the fruits of our vaunted system. A close examination will reveal the weak spots. First, our educational authorities appear to have overlooked one important feature in human nature, which now, in the light of experience, must be fully recognized. Education is, and always will be, used as a direct means of obtaining a living. If you educate a young man in this country beyond a certain point, he turns his back upon the farm and upon manual labor. It is true that, according to the official report last year, 934 High School pupils took up agriculture as a calling. But these figures are misleading, for the great majority of this number only return to their father's farm to await an opening in life. Practical farmers report that the High School pupil who returns to the farm returns with a "bee in his bonnet," and he seizes the first opportunity to get off into some other occupation. A matter of fact, the tendency to seek a living in the "nicer" occupations is too often fostered by the fond parent, who finds that it is cheaper to make a lawyer or a doctor of his son than to set him up on a farm, and then it must be remembered that he has little knowledge, as a rule, of the world. When the boy comes home, able to conjugate a Latin verb, he primes his head with rail-splitting presidents and men who have risen to be prime ministers from printers' devils. We hail and admire great men of this type, but it is a pity that their histories are ever written.

Again, to render our system symmetrically perfect, the High Schools, of course, must be well supported. With this end it is necessary, as far as possible, to make them an essential part of popular education and, at the same time, to offer a bait to scholars in the prospect of remunerative occupation when they have finished the course. How has this been done? The course of the Public Schools, which were originally intended to provide all the necessary education for the people, has been cut short, with the express intention, apparently, that the education obtained there should be incomplete. And what is the bait held out as an inducement?

We may gather a hint of this from the report of the Minister of Education for 1894, in which he says: "The High Schools and the Institutes train annually about 1,200 teachers for the Public Schools. This gives an importance to their existence, perhaps, even greater

than is attached to any other of their useful functions." In this connection we would refer our readers to an excellent paper written by Mr. McMillan of Toronto, entitled "Defects in our Public School System," read before the Annual Convention of the Ontario Educational Association in 1894, in which he says: "What becomes of this large army of recruits? For the fifteen years already mentioned (1877 to 1892) the total increase of teachers in actual service was 1,868, or a yearly output of 125. To supply this increase of 125 we have the annual output of the Model Schools, numbering on the average 1,200." The natural conclusion to be drawn from the fact that 125 positions are annually filled by 1,200 teachers, is that each teacher remains something less than two months at his vocation; and the pupils of the Public Schools are subjected to a perpetual succession of tyros, in order that the High Schools may be fed by young men who are attracted by an immediate prospect of making a living as a stepping-stone to the already over-crowded professions.

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# LUBY'S

PARISIAN HAIR RENEWER.

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## CURRENT FASHIONS.

[The Queen.]

**TUCKING.**—The plain tucks a year ago threatened to become a dominant fashion, and several gowns were made with graduated ones to the waist; but, according to vulgar phrase, this "did not take on." Now, to be à la mode, the tuckings must be gathered, and five or seven thus appear on the hem of the skirt, or on the yoke of the bodice, and are a very ornate accompaniment of the long close-fitting sleeve if made in any thin material.

**RUFFS.**—Ruffs of pleated tulle or lace not only border the tulle skirts for ball dresses, but form festoons above, which will seem to point to the return of the double skirt. A newer form of trimming is rather a simulated than a real ruff. The material has to be cut on the bias and gathered in the centre, so that either edge is very full and rounded. This has a great effect in the various thin fabrics on satins, moirés, and silks, and is employed at the hems, repeated often at intervals up the skirt. Moreover, this generally heads the gathered knee blouses which are being brought in, and very pretty they are, though not so graceful as the plain skirt.

**BUTTONS.**—The variety in these is legion. Six paste buttons, three on either side of the waist, are pretty nearly a necessity for a smart day or tea gown, and many other bodies display three of them on the left side, starting from the neck to the bust. They figure in the centre of lace jabots, ruffles of lace, and in any ribbon rosette or pompon that may be worn. No Louis XV. or XVI. coat would be complete without them, but there are many less ornamental kinds. Mother of pearl which is low dyed any tint to match the dresses, is set in filigree gold or silver frames, and the painted buttons à la Watteau are almost as pretty as taste.

**CAPE.**—They are very certainly the fashion, and are only being superseded by slow degrees by jackets; but they have their drawbacks. While they are generally becoming and are easily slipped on, it is impossible to prevent the wind getting under them. Now that the weather is keener, very full sable and mink capes, with a full of the fur at the hem, and a square, turned-down collar at the neck, and more patronage than any other kind.

**HEADDRESSES.**—Large and important aigrettes of lace, ribbon, feathers or flowers are all fashionable, placed at the side of the hair, and flowers are both introduced on the same headress. Small wreaths of violets, encircling the crown of the head, the French wear on the top of the head and the English above the nape of the neck, is a very pretty arrangement. We have worn more coronets of late years, principally brilliants, than perhaps at any other time of the world's history; but when this would be too full for the back of the hair is dotted over with small diamond brooches and pins. People with low brows look well with the hair turned off the face in a high roll, as Marie Antoinette wore it, while a classic face looks best with it drawn softly and smoothly from the face and twisted in a knot at the back. The se who have not such classically beautiful features should follow the French mode, parting the hair a little on one side; and the Botticelli coiffure, with the parting in the centre and the hair drawn over the ears, though somewhat trying and returning to favour only by degrees, is certainly becoming to the majority of English faces.

**MUFFS.**—The fashion is to have a large sable muff, but every body can not fall in with this necessity, seeing that a single one often represents a small fortune. The pouch shaped muff is coming in again, made of black Persian lamb, and lined with a very light tone of satin, visible at either end in a prominent frill. Muffs made entirely of ermine have found no appreciation, but a good many black velvet ones are trimmed with straps of ermine and lined with bright ermine velvet, and seal muffs are trimmed with bands of ermine and ermine heads, a gathered frill of ermine edging the light green satin lining. Feathers and fur are blended together this year both in trimmings and in muffs, and pheasant plumage and ostrich feathers both look well combined either with the favorite chinchilla or broad tail. Thibet is a good, useful, warm fur, and is very often employed for muffs when the mantles are trimmed with large Thibet collars and borders.

**THE FEET.**—Manicuring came from America, and now the ladies of that nation are directing their attention to their feet on the same lines. Among the wedding gifts of many a New York bride is a leather-looking despatch box,

with her initials outside, and inside an array of instruments and pigments destined to improve the appearance of the feet. The idea is not a new one; the Romans and Greeks turned their attention in the same direction. By the means the soles become a rosy pink, and the nails as polished as those of one hand. An ivory horn, a cotton sock are also included for the better adjustment of boots and shoes, as well as all the brushes and polishes for keeping these boots and shoes in order, and every possible kind of laces. Among the instruments there is a special looking glass which enables the manipulator to see every portion of her foot.

**ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS.**—The violet comes first and strongly scented, either the dark tone or the Neapolitan which has the preference. After this comes the rose. The matrons wear the large blooms, the debutantes the button roses. Many of the ball gowns have long chateaux of roses, the stems and leaves, while long lappet ends of silk, forming a sash, are often bordered all round with roses, in every shade of pink and yellow. A great many white roses are employed. Gardenias find a place in millinery, especially at the backs of hats and bonnets, and orchids, the brilliant mauve ones having the preference, are not only used for ball dress trimmings, but are applied on to tulle and lisse.

**Are You Nervous?**  
Horsford's Acid Phosphate  
Quiets the nerves and induces sleep.

The support of a Catholic paper is a noble work. Is your subscription paid?

**THE CORLISS BILL.**  
U. S. SENATE INCORPORATES IT IN THE IMMIGRATION BILL.  
WASHINGTON, January 20.—The Senate conferees have agreed to incorporate in the Immigration Bill the main provision of the Corliss amendment of the House Bill. An understanding has been reached by the Committee, and the bill as agreed upon will probably be reported for final passage within a day or two. The Corliss amendment is aimed against the daily incoming of Canadians, who work on this side and retain their domiciles in Canada. It specifically prohibits the entry of aliens who come here to perform labor of any kind unless they declare their intention to become citizens of the United States and give up their homes in the foreign country. The bill was originally drafted by the United Trades and Labor Council of Buffalo, in conjunction with Immigration Inspector De Barry, and received the endorsement of organized labor throughout the country.

**THE DEPARTMENT STORE.**  
Department stores have advanced fortunately in both the quality of the goods sold and the amount of the sales. The business of several amounts annually to from \$7,500,000 to \$15,000,000, and this, roughly speaking, is as much money as many a prosperous railway one thousand miles long handles in a twelve-month; one great store in the West carries a rent account of almost, if not quite, \$400,000 a year; the mail order business of another amounts to \$900,000 a year; a number of houses send to the homes of their customers more than twenty thousand packages in a single day, while perhaps as many more are carried away in the hands of the shoppers. In the busiest days quite one hundred thousands persons have visited each of the very largest stores of New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, and Brooklyn. One firm spends more than \$300,000 a year for advertising; and single departments in several stores sell more than \$2,000,000 worth of goods annually.—From Samuel Hopkins Adams, in Scribner's.

"I would give my heart's blood for Cuba!" shrieked the patriot.  
"God!" exclaimed a bystander, "I'm getting up troops now. Will you join us?"  
"Well—er—my family," replied the patriot—"I've got a family to support, and—"

"We'll take care of your family," said the other, "and pay you well beside. What do you say?"  
"Sell my patriotism for money!" cried the patriot, indignantly. "Never, sir—never! It's too sacred."  
—Atlanta Constitution.

Hair shows the innate disposition of a man or woman more than any other part of the person—when the disposition is cheerful, the hair is bright, and vice versa. But as attention will improve the one, so will a few weeks application of Luby's Parisian Hair Renewer help the other. Sold by all chemists at 50 cts. each bottle.

In an advertisement for a young gentleman who left his parents, it was stated that "If Master Jackey will return to his disconsolate parents, he shall be allowed to sweeten his own tea."—London Tit-Bits.

## SOCIETY

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FOR THE HAIR: CASTOR FLUID 25 cents  
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**HENRY R. GRAY,**  
Pharmaceutical Chemist,  
122 St. Lawrence Main Street,  
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**Rutland**  
Stove  
Lining  
IT FITS ANY STOVE.  
**GEO. W. REED,**  
AGENT.  
783 & 785 CRAIG STREET.

**Relief for Lung Troubles**  
The **DR. EMULSION**  
In CONSUMPTION and all LUNG DISEASES, SPITTING OF BLOOD, COUGH, LOSS OF APPETITE, DEBILITY, the benefits of this article are most manifest.

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One Way Weekly Excursions  
CALIFORNIA  
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A Pullman Tourist sleeper leaves Bonaventure Station every Thursday at 10.25 p.m. for the Pacific Coast, all that is required is a second-class ticket, and in addition a moderate charge is made for sleeping accommodation. This is a splendid opportunity for families moving West.  
For tickets and reservation of berths apply at  
**143 ST. JAMES STREET,**  
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238 & 240 St. James Street  
This Company distributes Works of Art, painted by the Masters of the Modern French School.  
A novel method of Distribution  
Tickets, from 25c to \$10 each.  
Awards, from \$5 to \$5,000 each.  
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Don't let your name appear on the list of arrears.