

The Planet

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THURSDAY, MAY 15.

EDUCATION.

A little over two weeks ago the local "Liberal" organ monopolized a brief breathing spell between its tirades of vituperation by the announcement that it purposed undertaking a discussion of Mr. Whitney's progressive and outspoken educational policy and the school book question. These are matters of vital interest to the people of this Province and their intelligent discussion cannot fail to be both profitable and beneficial.

Until, however, The Planet called its attention to the long-promised "discussion" a couple of days ago, the matter had been studiously sidetracked by the machine organ. Since the reminder two spasms have been paraded—the initial effort on Tuesday, the second yesterday.

Both of these are disappointing to a public who looked for candor and intelligence in their treatment. There is nothing new, nothing decided or definite, nothing logical or reasonable in them. No attempt is made to shed additional light upon an important and much vexed question. The Banner's efforts are but a dull plagiarism of the "arguments" which have been utilized by the whole machine phalanx, from Premier Ross down to his lowliest henchman, time and time again in the attempt to assuage the keen criticism and vigorous condemnation of a people desirous of securing for their sons and daughters a good practical education for a reasonable outlay.

Moreover, the Banner has neither the ability nor the astuteness of the Liberal speakers who have undertaken from the platform to hedge upon and misconstrue the facts in dealing with this important issue. Its attempt to reduce the utterances of these men to cold type and parade them as its own creations is clumsy and careless, at best, and the product is both muddled and illogical.

Let it be examined briefly.

From its labored and incongruous verbiage the Banner professes to evolve a summary which embraces the practical perfection of the Ross educational system—"the system," it sneeringly adds, "in which Whitney sees so many defects." This summary the Banner subdivides, numbering from 1 to 5. Let us look at it as it stands with all the completeness and finish with which the machine organ has endowed it.

(1) The number of departmental examinations have been reduced from 27, under Dr. Ryerson, to 13.

The fact that the summary opens with a deliberate misstatement does not press the reader in its favor. The number of departmental examinations under Dr. Ryerson was not 27 or anything near it. But let that pass. The "reduction" to 13 the Banner knows full well itself, if it has given the subject any intelligent attention whatever, is not de facto. It is the result of a clever expedient to effect a plausible "reduction" on paper by having the inspector's and specialists' certificates issued by the university instead of the Department, as heretofore. Then, again, examinations, such as the Junior and Senior Leaving, are divided into "Part I" and "Part II," which are really two examinations and paraded under the head of one.

(2) The third class certificates have been abolished in all the public schools of the Province.

This is rubbish and will simply make the machine organ the laughing stock of an intelligent public. Every year our County Model school turns out its quota of third class certificate teachers. The report of the Minister of Education shows thousands of them throughout the Province and if the Banner will once again turn up its files for December—last December, this time, please—it will find that the Planet is not "misquoting" or "manufacturing opinions for it" when this journal calls attention to the fact that it credited some 35 students with having secured third class

certificates from the County Model school right in this city.

(3) The number of text books in public schools have been reduced from 55, under Ryerson, to 13, and in high schools from 181 in 1883 to 23.

But the prices haven't been reduced. They have fattened and increased and the cost of the series now, as all parents know full well, is greater than ever. If the number of books, then, is so greatly reduced as the Banner says, surely some beneficial result should have been felt in the pockets of the people. Again, the 13 books mentioned don't begin to see the pupil through. The quality and material of their contents is so inferior and the treatment of the subjects so poor that the pupil is constantly called upon to secure school helps and assistants, and the teacher endeavors to cover the shortage in the text books by the introduction of notes and other original helps.

(4) In 1883, 135 of the text books used in the public and high schools were written either by American or British authors. Now every text book, with the exception of two, is the production of a Canadian author.

"Canadian author" is good! Consider the compilations of truck, gathered from here, there and everywhere and thrown together with heterogeneous abandon. They are as much the production of a "Canadian author" as Ross was the author of that poetry he filched and tacked his name to. That Geography was "the production of a Canadian author"—the book that parades an old picture of the American Soo canal, borrowed from the Yankees, and labels it for the instruction of our children the "Canadian Soo canal."

(5) In 1883, 87 of the text books used in public and high schools were imported from abroad. Now every text book in the public and high schools is manufactured in Canada, giving employment to our own printers and binders, a very significant proof that the government are endeavoring to encourage home manufacture.

And, incidentally, feeding and fattening the school book monopolies out of the pockets of the people. Give the production of the books to the Canadian manufacturers by all means, but let the work be let by tender in open competition and destroy the school book ring. The people will then secure better books at a much more reasonable figure. This school book monopoly, as it exists under the Ross regime to-day, is a curse. Not alone are the pockets of the people practically robbed, but their children are equipped with an inferior class of books. To-day parents are assessed 75 cents for the Ross public school geography, the book that includes the false Yankee cuts, before alluded to, and which gives the valuable and up-to-date information that Chatham is noted for its ship-building industry, etc.

A good Liberal public school teacher in one of the most progressive towns in this county is our authority for assuring the public that an American geography, costing but 30 cents, is far superior in its contents, workmanship, illustrations and binding, and contains such complete and recent information as the development of the sugar beet growing industry in Kent county. What American compilers and publishers have done, Canadians can do—and do better—and, but for the Ross school book monopoly, the people could purchase for their children better books at wonderfully cheaper prices.

Again, look at the public school grammar. This book is the compilation or product of a high school principal, a member of the Ross Educational Council, whose pull thus prevents him from proving troublesome, and has for its avowed object preparation for the high school course, thus showing conclusively that the object of the Ross system is—just as Mr. Whitney says—to make the public school, where 95 per cent. of our children begin and end their education, a mere stepping stone to the high school and university.

The public schools in the city of London refuse to use this grammar and have gotten out a limit of work based on a Chicago grammar. Here in Chatham the Board has procured supplementary grammars for the teachers, so that the subject may have a uniform and satisfactory treatment. Now as to Mr. Whitney's policy. When in Chatham he laid it down clearly, definitely and forcibly. He proposes to surround the Minister of Education with a competent and representative advisory or consultative committee. This suggestion Mr. Whitney presented in the Legislature only to have it voted down by Ross and his machine majority, including Mr. Parde, of West Kent.

Mr. Ross has what he calls an Educational Council. It is composed of nine university men, one high school principal—with a string on him, before alluded to, one public school inspector for the city of Guelph, one public school principal of the city of Toronto school.

Where is the representative of the rural school?

Why has the rural school, where thousands of our best men and women begin and end their education, no representative?



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To give an idea of the superior judgment of this Ross council glance over the work prescribed by the Educational Department. Take, for example, the literature examination for the high school entrance, for which the child is forced to study the works of 72 authors in one year! The final year students at university wouldn't care to tackle it.

Refer to the annual meeting of the Provincial Educational Association in Toronto this spring. Read the proceedings. Ask anyone who was there concerning them. Were they not one long and vigorous denunciation of the course and policy of the Department which Ross created and which the Banner seeks to defend?

Mr. Whitney will amend all this. His consultative committee will bring the interests of the people into touch with the workings of the Department. The Banner sneers at him and asks for proof that he "understands the school system." The best proof that he does and that the interests of education will be safe-guarded and fostered in his hands is found in the fact that he proposes—

To take his advice on public school matters from public school people.

To take his advice on high school matters from high school people.

To take his advice on university matters from university people.

One word more. The Banner pools the charge that the prices of school books are excessive. It quotes figures advanced by Mr. Ross on the platform to evade the issue and adds:

Mr. Whitney says that parents are the best judges of what the text books cost, but against any figures or statement of facts from Mr. Whitney on that point, there is incontrovertible evidence of the cheapness of the Ontario system in this fact, that in the city of Toronto, where text books are supplied by the school trustees to the pupils free, the average cost per pupil is 7-3-4 cents, and in a statement prepared by the Education Department based upon the sale by the publishers of text-books the average cost per pupil for the whole province was only 21-1-3 cents.

Twenty-one and one-third cents per pupil, indeed! It may tickle the ear of the Banner to juggle the figures thus, but it cannot fool the people of Kent, with any such fairy tale. The people know—they foot the bill. Total cost of school books per pupil only 21-1-3 cents! That is what the Banner tells you, parents of Kent. Those who have little folks attending school know better. There is no necessity for argument. Mr. Whitney is right—the parents are the best judges, and they know.

LIBERALS DEMAND CHANGE.

That the Liberals are joining with their Conservative fellow-citizens in the effort to dislodge the thirty-year-old Government and to have a salutary change is made manifest on all hands, points out the Mail and Empire. At the nomination of Dr. Roebuck in Russell the other day a large Liberal delegation was present. Some of the gentlemen spoke. Among those who addressed the meeting was Mr. Robert Stewart, of Kemore.

Mr. Stewart, while announcing himself as a life-long Liberal, stated that he had been forced to forget the fact for the moment in his determination to condemn by his voice and vote the maladministration of the party now seeking a return to power. He agreed with a previous speaker that "the Ross Government was guilty of gross corruption in not bringing to justice those who prostituted the ballot-box. In not punishing these wrongdoers, Premier Ross," the speaker stated, "took the blame on his own shoulders and now he must bear the consequences. Another reason I've decided to oppose Premier Ross is because of his nonfulfillment of political promises," said Mr. Stewart; "Mr. Whitney, on the other hand, has carried out his promises as far as possible. He has given us a well-defined policy, and I believe it is in the best interests of the province to give him an opportunity to work out that policy. I'm a Liberal at heart," concluded Mr. Stewart, "but after giving the matter conscientious consideration, I've decided to support Mr. Whitney through his Russell representative, Dr. Roebuck."

60 in. wide
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Superior quality, in white
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2 pieces Scotch linoleum, superior quality, thoroughly seasoned, choice designs, 2 yards wide, the best 75c quality in Canada, clearing at per square yard 68c.
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22 pieces extra heavy floor oil cloth, 1 yard 1-1-4, 1-2, 2, and 2-1-2 yards wide, large range of new spring patterns and colorings, excellent wearing quality, special per square yard 85c.
Heavy Union Carpets—Full yard wide, new reversible patterns and colorings, clearing at per yard 25c.
Union Carpets—Excellent qualities, new designs, rich reversible colorings, clearing at per yard, 47c, 39c, 35c, and 30c.
Heavy Wool Carpets—Cotton chain, superior wool filling, newest designs and colorings, made and laid at per yard 60c.
2-ply All Wool Carpet—Extra heavy quality, in choice reversible patterns, the best, 75c quality, clearing at, made and laid, per yard 63c.

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cause of his nonfulfillment of political promises," said Mr. Stewart; "Mr. Whitney, on the other hand, has carried out his promises as far as possible. He has given us a well-defined policy, and I believe it is in the best interests of the province to give him an opportunity to work out that policy. I'm a Liberal at heart," concluded Mr. Stewart, "but after giving the matter conscientious consideration, I've decided to support Mr. Whitney through his Russell representative, Dr. Roebuck."

A POLITICAL PREDICTION.

Kingston News.
Daniel O'Brien will defeat the Ross candidate in Brockville.

Some people are so unfeeling that they never feel their own insignificance.

"THE PAIN
WAS KILLING"

Rheumatism reveals in the writhings of its victims until shorn of its pangs by South American Rheumatic Cure—it relieves in six hours and cures in one to three days.

Mrs. Geo. Smith, of 66 Chatham St., Point St. Charles, suffered terribly from Rheumatism in her joints. The pain was killing. Doctors' medicines temporarily deadened the pain, but effected no permanent relief. She began taking South American Rheumatic Cure and when she had used four bottles was absolutely cured.

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WANTED—An assistant for repair paint shop. Apply Wm. Gray & Sons.

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GIRL WANTED—Prefer a middle aged woman; in a comfortable farm residence, three miles from Chatham on Lot 4, con. 4, Harwich. Apply on premises or address, F. W. Dunlop, Chatham P. O. 10c

WANTED—Housekeeper for a widower about 30, who has one small son. Must be able to furnish references; middle aged person preferred. For particulars address "Housekeeper," care of The Planet Office, where personal applications may be made.

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—AT—
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King St., Chatham

Somewhat, the narrow-minded people are often those who have the big heads.