

sets and divine despair to salads and hair-restorers. After all, why should the soul of mortal be too proud to admit the claims of our daily bread and our Sunday clothes? Charles Lamb wrote a mouth-watering essay on "Roast Pig" and it is the frequent fear of those who love his works that some Chicago canned-meat firm will annex that essay. Shakespeare is being worked overtime in a way to make Bacon jealous, in order that soap and breakfast foods may be known in the land. Some people may read the serial stories in the magazines but everyone reads the advertisements. One may be in doubt as to how far the hero has progressed in the heroine's affections but there is no uncertainty as to the charms of the girl who is using the soap that floats. We know the story of Puritan Wheat or the Highkicker Shoe by heart, while we may be uncertain as to the editor's policy. In fact, all the charms of literary style and the fine effects of art have rallied to the side of the advertiser, and the most interesting journalistic controversy of recent date concerns itself with the percentage of alcohol in the advertising columns of the disputing journals.

CANON WELCH'S sermon in Toronto on Sunday last must have startled his military audience and was likely to disturb the peace of mind of those who read the newspaper reports of his remarks. Canada has

EXCESSIVE DRINKING

been proceeding in the belief that drunkenness is not so common in this country as in Great Britain, and that the consumption of liquor is proportionately less. The Canon's figures were not conclusive, but they indicated that he had failed to find justification for the Canadian complacency. If the amount of drunkenness is not increasing in Toronto, the prosecution of the offenders is more thorough. This is the only other explanation for the steady increase in the number of arrests. His intention seemed to be to warn the public that continued agitation and education are required to keep the evils of intemperance in check.

The Canon's appeal to prominent women to discourage intemperance among young men who attend social functions, while rather crudely phrased, is quite

timely. Drunkenness is just as objectionable among the professional and capitalistic classes as it is among workmen. The social evils which follow in its train are the same and the physical injury to the race is just as important.

The medical profession have been rather lax in their duty in this regard. They have much information as to the results of intemperance in both sexes which they fail to make public. It cannot be denied that they have a responsibility, if not quite equal to that of the priest, yet varying only in degree. The British medical men have been franker than their Canadian confreres.

THE Education Department of Ontario is working out a scheme to do away with the burden of written examinations in high and public schools. If this brings about the effect intended, it will be possible for a pupil to go through the high school or collegiate institutes without passing any examination except that set by his teachers. The only examination to be conducted by the department will be those for entrance to model and normal schools, and to the faculties of education in the universities. These, of course, will be confined to those who intend to enter the teaching profession. The junior matriculation examination will be entirely separate.

This idea is excellent, but in the end much depends upon the teacher. He holds the fate of the children in his hand. If he desires to prove that he can fit his pupils for examination better than the teacher in the next county, he will persuade his pupils to go up for examinations whether they intend to be teachers or not. He will laugh at departmental regulations, at educational ideals and at all finely-spun theories, if he thinks he can make a record for himself by shoving his pupils through departmental examinations.

Educationists may devise remedies, inspectors may give excellent advice, but so long as the teacher lacks high ideals, so long will the present system prevail. Today, ninety per cent. of the teachers in the schools are working with the examinations in view. The dull scholar is neglected and the bright one is rushed forward.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier and High Buildings.

WHEN the Grand Trunk Railway proposed to build a twelve-storey station and hotel in Ottawa, Sir Wilfrid Laurier is said to have gently interposed and advised the G.T.R. to stop at ten storeys. He objects to very high buildings. He is wise in this. No building should be of greater height than one and a half times the width of the street on which it faces. This is the rule in Great Britain and it is a splendid rule. It assures plenty of air and light.

The Traders' Bank Building in Toronto is a fifteen storey structure. It is a splendid building and one such will not hurt any city. If, however, there were several such buildings in Toronto, in close proximity to each other, there would be congestion of traffic, lack of air and sunlight and other dangers to the general public.

Sir Wilfrid might advantageously turn his attention to other "high" buildings. As Sir Montagu Allan has pointed out, the Banks are erecting buildings the cost of which is altogether too high. A bank building is now going up in Montreal which is likely to cost over a million dollars. Other expensive buildings have been erected in the leading cities. As Premier of this country, Sir Wilfrid might reasonably look into this position of affairs and say whether or not he thinks the expenditure of the banks in this direction is too "high." The bankers say the country is developing faster than the accumulation of capital can meet the demands occasioned by new undertakings, and yet vast sums are being spent by these same bankers on buildings which are more for show and ornament than for the production of revenue. There is an inconsistency here, and now that Sir Wilfrid is interested in "high" buildings, he might investigate this inconsistency.

Of course, the bankers are the wisest men in the community, and it is almost sacrilege to suggest that they would do anything in the slightest manner detrimental to the public interest. Nevertheless, they might not object to having so high an official as Sir Wilfrid discuss their plans, providing that he did so in a friendly spirit and with due regard for their susceptibilities. With his sunny ways, he might beguile them into a conference where they would explain to him the reasons which the general public at present is unable to discover.