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SEMI-WEEKLY.

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DUNCAN MARSHALL, Manager.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1909.

The Toronto News notes that "fresh and important coal discoveries continue to be made in the Canadian west" and says: "The interests of the country demand that these shall not be alienated from the national heritage. Ownership should remain in the government, and the various areas should be leased to operating companies, upon terms that would safeguard the community at large. By this means we should be conserving our natural resources and providing against the future scarcity of a capitalist monopoly, the cornering of the fuel deposits and the imposition of unreasonable burdens upon the consumer. This, of course, is precisely what is being done, and what has been done for the past two years or more. Under regulations then adopted western coal lands are now leased under operating conditions not sold. Of this the News is apparently not aware. It will be interesting therefore to observe on what ground it will now proceed to condemn the Government for having done what it says ought to be done.

Calgary has had a religious census taken, though the results do not seem likely to promote the cause under whose auspices it was taken. The tone of the communications being sent to the city press seem to indicate that the popularity of the takers is on the wane rather than the increase, at least the popularity of those who made known the results of the inquiry. These reported that they had found some 14,000 people in the city. Naturally this is not received with acclamation by those who have been announcing that more than 30,000 people call Calgary their home. The best news unnecessary, however. No body is likely to construe the figures given out by the takers as indicating the whole population of the city, no one at least residing in a city where a religious census has been taken. This, indeed, is not the purpose of the promoters of a religious census. Their object is not so much to find out how many people live in a city, as how many of them do not go to church, and what churches these might attend, if a little persuasion were expended on them. Taking the Calgary press as a standard of measurement, and remembering the character they ascribe to the gentlemen elected to the highest offices in the city's gift, it seems probable that 4,000 about represents the proportion of non-church going people who reside there—providing, of course, the total is not above the 30,000 mark.

MISTAKEN ECONOMY.

The students enrolled at the Toronto Normal School, where teachers are trained, include 8 gentlemen and 299 ladies. These figures are perhaps in greater disproportion than those of any previous year, but there has for many years been a disproportion in the same direction. The meaning of course is that men are rapidly disappearing from the teaching profession in that Province and the training of the rising generations being left altogether in the hands of young women. Children in the primary grades no doubt derive an advantage from the deep sympathy and the untiring patience of a lady teacher. But with boys in the more advanced forms it is different. To them, the teacher should be not merely a teacher, but a leader. It is, after all, of less consequence that they be crammed with all manner of useful and useless information than that they be trained in the ways, the characteristics and the duties of manhood. This training the male teacher may impart by example as well as precept, perhaps by example much more than by precept. A boy is admittedly more liable to waywardness than their sisters, there is the greater need that the conditions of school life should be determined with a special regard to their welfare. Outside, a well regulated home perhaps no stronger influence can be wielded over a boy who is half a man than that of a teacher who is also a fit example of manhood. The figures from Toronto indicate that the

BOYS IN THE SCHOOLS OF ONTARIO

are losing this advantage. Nor is the tendency peculiar to that Province. It seems to be general in the older Provinces. The cause is not a mystery. Canada is a prosperous country, and the wages paid teachers in the older Provinces are ordinarily much less than men can earn at other employment. In consequence few enter the profession, and those few get out of it early in life. As a life calling, a profession which does not offer something more than a bare living, and something proportionate to the rewards offered for other service, cannot be expected to attract men and hold them. Hundreds of well qualified men have abandoned the teaching profession in Canada with regret, simply because they were not prepared to become martyrs in a cause that should not require martyrs.

The disappearance of the male teacher means something more to the schools and their pupils than the loss of the influence of the masculine mind and character. It means also the absence of experienced teachers in the schools. Women do not ordinarily teach for more than a few years. Unless the men are persuaded to remain in the profession there cannot be developed a large percentage of long-experienced teachers in the schools.

Advocates of "up-to-date-ness," to the contrary, experience is worth something in teaching, as in every other occupation, and experience can be got only by doing. It may fairly be claimed, on the evidence of a thousand dismal failures, that teachers are born not made. And given a "born" teacher he should be a much better teacher after twenty years' teaching than before it. A country can never have the best of teachers till it has teachers who have devoted their lives to that business with singleness of intent and earnestness of purpose, and have acquired in the school-room the lessons which can be learned nowhere else. Nor can an educational system be considered perfect which does not tend to draw into the teaching profession those best qualified by nature for it, and to hold them once they have entered it.

At present the systems in our older Provinces do exactly the opposite. They make school-teaching simply a stepping-stone to the other professions, and they frequently drive out of the teaching profession those who would gladly remain in it.

In the younger Provinces we have not yet encountered this tendency. Teachers here are comparatively scarce. Consequently wages are comparatively good, and there is more temptation to enter the profession and less temptation to get out of it. But with the advanced development we must expect to encounter the difficulty from which the older provincial systems are now suffering. As the creation of new school districts slackens and as the teachers graduated from our high and normal schools increase the tendency will be to lower wages, and hence to the abandonment of the profession by men who have talent and forethought.

This problem should be fairly and thoughtfully faced by our educational authorities before it comes upon us. The consequences of it we have fully and unfortunately illustrated in the older Provinces. We should avoid those rather than await their development and then attempt to remedy matters. Prevention here is easier than cure, witness the attempt of the Ontario Government to raise the salaries of teachers generally throughout the Province by legislation, and the small success it seems to have attained. It would be in the highest and the longest interest of the people of the Province to fix a statutory limit below which the salary of a teacher should not fall, and perhaps to grade the Government grants in aid of schools according to the salaries paid the teachers.

The course would be a bold one perhaps, but that is no argument against it in this country. Its effect at present and for some time to come would be practically nil, as the salaries will for many years be kept at reasonable levels by natural conditions. Its value would be seen when the slow increase in schools introduces the tendency or the temptation to cut salaries. Nor need it be feared there would be a public outcry against such a measure.

Western people have learned many things from the older Provinces. They are not averse to improving on the methods and conditions there prevailing, nor in putting up the money necessary to do it. Certainly in matters of education our people cannot be accused of parsimony. It is not to be supposed they would find fault with a law restricting any district which might fall into this spirit, from robbing the future citizens of the best teachers who could be secured for its school.

DISTRICT NEWS

KEEPPHILLS.

Bulletin News Service. Dan Mackay is down from Tomahawk repairing John Bennett's separator for the threshing. Mr. and Mrs. Kyr of Bright Banks, paid a visit to their daughter, Mrs. William McDonald, last week. Mrs. E. B. Wilson has left for Edmonton to stay for some length of time. Mr. Wilson has since made a business trip to the capital. While threshing for Mr. Bennett, G. H. Collins, postmaster, had a slight accident, the blades of his knife penetrating the left muscle right to the bone. G. Schmidt and family have left for Edmonton. Forest fires are still blazing all round the district, another one starting near Old Owl Creek and Keepphills, October 8th.

FORT SASKATCHEWAN.

Bulletin News Service. Mrs. J. W. Sherr returned last night from a week's visit to the capital. Lieutenant Hughes, Sergeant Foster and Private Adams and Turner, of "C" squadron of the A.M.R., went to Edmonton to attend the rifle matches of the regiment. It was luck as good as last year, they won't return empty-handed. One of the infant twin daughters of Mr. and Mrs. E. Van died on Wednesday and was buried yesterday.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Johnson Carscadden was brightened by the advent of a little daughter on Wednesday evening.

A large flock of wauve geese passed over the Fort on Thursday evening. Some of the local sportsmen tried a few shots at them, but they were up beyond range.

Charles Stewart, who severely injured himself some time ago while lifting goods at the depot, was admitted into the General Hospital today. While working in his surgery early this morning, Dr. Harnden, the dentist, met with a serious accident. It seems that while welding two plates he doctored for a few minutes and was rudely awakened by the explosion of the welding lamp. When help arrived the doctor was enveloped in flames, which were quickly put out with a bucket of water standing nearby, but before he had received the severe burning. Medical aid was quickly procured and the doctor is resting as easily as possible under the circumstances.

Before a moderately filled but well pleased house, the Gospel Festival Entertainers gave an excellent performance here last night. Miss Minnie Simmons is back to the Fort renewing old acquaintances. Fort Saskatchewan, October 8th.

WABAMUN.

Bulletin News Service. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Smith are rejoicing over the birth of a son on Sunday, October 3.

On Saturday, October 8th, at the residence of the bride's parents, took place the marriage of Miss Velma Lent to D. MacDonald, of Messiasin. The young couple will occupy the best wishes of the entire community to their new home.

Ed. Willard recently suffered the loss of two stable of quantity of hay by fire and A. C. Smith's hay, on the Esauot place, was burned up with the stable this week. Willard's loss was covered by insurance.

C. H. Dunn attended the ceremony of laying the corner stone of the Capital buildings at Edmonton last week.

A. C. Smith purchased one hundred head of cattle near Island Lake last week and later sold the whole bunch to P. Burns & Co.

Messrs. Chauvin and C. Race, of Edmonton, continued business with pleasure in visiting the lake the latter part of the week. Mr. Race interviewed the merchants of the vicinity in the interests of his firm and Mr. Chauvin was exploiting the glories of the lake and the parting lot spot on it owned by his land company. It is the intention of the syndicate to erect a fine hotel at Selkirk the coming summer.

Threshing in this vicinity is nearly completed. The grain is turning out well and the oats are particularly heavy.

S. W. Eakins B.A. returned the first of the week from a ten days' trip to the capital city. Wabamun, October 8th.

RIVIERE QUI BARRE.

Bulletin News Service. On October 8th, a quiet but very pleasant wedding was solemnized here. The contracting parties were Hazel Olive Stewart, second daughter of John Stewart, and James Flynn. The marriage ceremony was performed by Rev. Father Okajewski, who gave the nuptial blessing during high mass at nine o'clock. The bride was attired in a brown travelling suit with white pique hat. The bride was attended by M. Flynn and Mr. Hut, fermas, was groomsmen. After mass they adjourned to the home of Mr. Flynn where they were the recipients of a shower of rice and hearty congratulations. After dinner the happy couple left for their new home in Stion taking with them the best wishes of a host of friends.

Riviere Qui Barre, Oct. 8th.

SION.

Bulletin News Service. On Monday last, the 4th inst., the trustees of the Clifton School District opened their school for instruction, under the appointed teacher, Mr. Donald McLeod, and although the move of opening was a hard one on only a day or two, five children put in an appearance. The particularly well equipped in up-to-date furniture and fittings, maps and appliances. The playground an acre in extent, is cleared of brush, etc., and fenced with up-to-date wire fencing. A well has been sunk at about 30 feet and is a good supply of excellent water is obtained. Sion, October 8th.



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