

We have inserted in our present issue a letter which Dr. Hodgins, of the Education Department, sent some time ago to the *Mail and Empire*, a letter which is, perhaps, as strong an argument in favor of the organization of a Central Bureau of Education for Canada as it is possible to have; and to show that Dr. Harper, who first brought this matter to the notice of the readers of the MONTHLY, is not worrying over the preamble of Dr. Hodgins' letter, wherein he seems to think that the tracing of the origination of the scheme is of more importance than the realization of it, we may say that it is Dr. Harper himself who has asked us to publish Dr. Hodgins' letter. THE CANADA EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY has advocated the scheme, not because Dr. Ryerson or Dr. Harper has advocated it, but because such a Bureau would be a great benefit to all of us; and now that it has been told us, according to Dr. Hodgins' own showing, that something like a guarantee was given by the rulers of the country that a Central Bureau of Education would be established, there should be no time lost in bringing the whole question before the authorities at Ottawa. It is said that a committee was appointed at the

Halifax Convention of the Dominion Educational Association to watch this matter, but the time is ripe for more than watching. The time is ripe for action, since the consensus of public opinion has been proved to be favorable to the immediate organization of such a sub-department at Ottawa.

Professor Mahaffy, in the *Nineteenth Century*, ruthlessly dissects the Intermediate Examination system in Ireland. Nineteen years ago, he tells us, when the system was established, he stood alone in proclaiming that the foundations were rotten, and that it would inevitably lead to competition in creeds, not in learning, to increase of cram and decrease of sound learning. And now, being asked by the Special Commission to offer criticisms, he tells them and the public that they must make a clean sweep of all their methods and regulations, and build them again on wholly new lines. With his protest against the inferior limit of age, the multitude of subjects to be taken up, the absence of any oral tests, most educators will agree, though his dicta on English literature, on modern language, and on music may seem to us arbitrary and in part heretical.

CURRENT EVENTS.

The influence of politics upon education has every now and again a searchlight thrown upon it, and this time the light is handled by a school superintendent of the United States named Preston W. Search. In declaring his intention of resigning at the end of the year, he declares that affairs in the city have reached such a state that he cannot withhold his reasons for taking this step. He says that he hopes the people will rescue the school system

from the political entanglements into which it has fallen, and which threaten its existence as an educational factor. He says that politicians have sought continually to use the schools for personal ends. He charges members of the city government with using corrupt methods in placing school furniture contracts. He says that he has not been able to have the High School laboratory equipped, for as yet there was nothing "in it" for some aldermen.