EDUCATION IN QUEBEC.

At a banquet to Hon. Adelard Turgeon, one of the Province of Quebec ministers, there was some good speaking, both by the guest of honor and by some of those around him at the table. One of the Provincial members present, Mr. G. Langlois, declared his desire to have in the Government of the Province a committee on education, and he also advocated the founding of an educational department under a responsible minister. French Canadians, he declared, must have a better practical education. Major G. W. Stephens, of Montreal, made a speech full of sense and suggestion. In the course of his address the Major said:—

"We are in the Province of Quebec, in round figures, two millions of people, of whom 1,600,000 are the descendants of old France, and 400,000 are the descendants of old England, Ireland, and Scotland. We have a Provincial Government that is divided into several departments for the supervision and management of finance, mines, crown lands, fisheries, and public works.

"We hand over to a body of eminent men, called the Council of Public Instruction, the trust of providing education for two millions of people, and we give them $210,000 per annum to work with. The Council of Public Instruction never meets as a body, but its two committees meet together twice a year and spend just four days in deliberation upon the most important factor in our national existence.

"Female teachers in the Province of Quebec in rural districts receive an average wage per day of 32 cents, and male teachers an average of 44 cents. We pay our bricklayers 65 cents per hour; we pay our plasterers 45 cents per hour; we pay our carpenters 35 cents per hour; we pay our plumbers 35 cents per hour, and we pay our teachers, who are to give these people their education, less *per day* than these people earn per hour.

"What is the remedy?"

"We want education to become the free inheritance of every child born in the Province and for every child that comes to help in its building. We want to create a public school system that will pay its teachers a living wage and make the profession of the teachers throughout the length and breadth of this land an honorable calling in the eyes of the people. We want to create technical schools for the artisan, so that Canadian skilled labor can take its place along side of any other. We want to create an agricultural school that will compare with that in operation in our sister Province of Ontario.

"We want to have our people realize that education means prosperity, happiness, mutual confidence, greater comfort of the home, cleaner streets in our cities, better roads throughout our Province, integrity in our business transactions, less crime and ignorance. We want our people to realize that the more money we put into public schools, the less we will put into prisons and asylums and hospitals."

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THOUGHTS FOR COTTON MANUFACTURERS.

The cotton manufacturing industry is the life-blood of a large and very thickly populated portion of Great Britain, and it is one of the most important industries of other countries as well. Moreover, during the last two years in particular it has, perhaps, through manipulations and dramatic ups and downs in its raw material, drawn more general public attention to itself than any other branch of manufacture. It will, therefore, not be out of place to make some reference to the proceedings of the New England Cotton Manufacturers' Association at its convention a couple of weeks ago in Atlantic City, N.J. Much of the speaking was, as is natural, devoted to a "boosting" of the American cotton manufacturer, his works and ways, and to estimates of how long it will be before the United States shall have left Great Britain hopelessly in the rear as a great manufacturing country. Nevertheless, there was much good meat in several of the addresses, the speakers of which were not afraid to point to existing evils and abuses in the manner whereby cotton futures are manipulated to the detriment of not only the manufacturers and the consumers, but to the producers of raw cotton themselves.

Speaking of exports of cotton goods from the United States, Mr. J. R. MacColl, the president of the Association, stated that up to the present they have been mainly in coarse, heavy goods, on which the element of labor is small and the output large. On this class of fabrics American mills can successfully rival European mills. On other fabrics careful investigation shows American costs to be 10 to 50 per cent. more than foreign, according to the labor involved in production and the degree of success attained in inventing or utilizing labor-saving devices. With an average duty of over 50 per cent. collected on manufactures of cotton during the year ending June 30, 1904, the imports amount to $50,000,000, foreign value, proving conclusively that many fabrics can still be produced abroad at a cost 33 1-3 per cent. less than here. A comparison of the exports of the United States and Great Britain by classes of goods shows that the former's principal business has been in grey and bleached goods, and that in the other classes which involve the complications of color and design American manufacturers have done hardly anything. The future opportunity, therefore, lies particularly in the latter classes.

A topic which was of peculiar interest to all was the efforts which are now being made by Great Britain, France, Germany and other nations to grow cotton on a commercial scale in countries other than the United States. The words of Mr. MacColl in this connection are noteworthy:

> We should prefer to see an ample supply of cotton for the world's needs raised in our own Southern States. In my judgment, the South will make a grave mistake if, by wilful reduction of acreage, it fails to grasp its opportunity to provide the world with a sufficient supply of cotton at a reasonable price. . . . It cannot be good business judgment to encourage competition by the unsound economic policy of reducing the production of a great staple that the world needs in order to obtain an exorbitant profit. The scheme to market the cotton crop throughout the year at a steady price is an excellent one, and we hope it can be carried out.

And still another form of competition may have to be faced. If cotton can be grown at from 5 cents to 6 cents per pound, and by curtailment of production the price is to be maintained at 10 cents to 11 cents, there is every inducement for large manufacturers to combine together and grow their own cotton. They would in this way get their raw material at cost price, and, in addition, save themselves from the anxiety and possible loss incidental to its purchase. A mill of 200,000 spindles using 25,000 bales of cotton per annum, by growing its own cotton at a cost 5 cents per pound less than the market price, would effect a saving of $625,000, or over $3 per spindle, which would pay 20 per cent. annually on the cost of an American mill. Here is something for the manufacturers of the Southern States to think about.

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RELUCTANT INFORMATION.

Editor Monetary Times:

Sir,—We enclose an original letter, just received, from Michel Bilodeau, of Cocagne, N.B., who has been acting as assignee in the matter of the estate of D. L. Goguen, of Cocagne, N.B., a retail merchant.

Goguen assigned June 21, 1905, and Mr. Bilodeau was appointed assignee. After repeated letters, in which we asked what had been done with the estate, etc., we finally received, on September 29th, a first and final dividend of 6 1-5 per cent., namely, $5.12, less six cents deducted for postage.