

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., FEBRUARY 13, 1918

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PROF. SEXTON'S ADDRESS.

The members of the Canadian Club left St. John's last evening with a much clearer knowledge of what Nova Scotia is doing for vocational training, and of the importance and the necessity of similar action in New Brunswick.

Prof. Sexton not only knows his subject but is able to present it with such an admirable clarity that his course of reasoning is easily followed, and the conclusions strongly impressed upon the mind of the listener. He is a clear thinker, a professor addressing his class, and the class responds by close attention and sustained interest.

Prof. Sexton's terse definitions, are striking and comprehensive. Education is training for life, and the chief education is training for livelihood. In other words, whatever better fits an individual to earn a livelihood is in a broad sense, vocational training. That such training pays from the purely material standpoint was shown by the speaker's comparison of the earnings of unskilled, partially trained and well trained persons in industrial life.

Prof. Sexton has no quarrel with our common school system except that it should be vitalized to produce more practical results. The three R's, geography and history should be at the basis of all education, and up to the eighth grade or nearly that far the system does well. It does well right on through the high school if the pupil is going on to the university, but only five or six per cent go there, while not more than twenty per cent complete the high school course. There is a deep trail to the university, but so many fall out at an early stage that some provision ought to be made for their training along other lines, and that is where vocational education comes to the rescue.

A very striking statement made by Prof. Sexton is that of the boys who leave school at fourteen years of age only a small percentage do so because they are actually compelled to go to work. Some leave school because of the lack of the faculty of memorizing, some other deficiency has caused them to fall behind in their studies and they lose all interest. Some find the course after the eighth grade unattractive, and are eager to be earning money. If the course could be made more attractive to them by vocational training, and care were taken to convince them that another year or two would fit them to earn higher wages and climb the ladder of success, they would continue their studies. The Scotch system, under which a study of the boy by parents and teacher when he is between ten and twelve years of age, determines whether or not he is to pursue a classical course or take special training for industrial life, has proved a very excellent system.

It is this very large percentage who leave school at an early age for whom vocational training must be provided, to raise the general standard of efficiency of the nation. The thing can be done by changing the course of study for them after a certain grade, and forming a separate class of those desiring to take a full classical course.

Prof. Sexton rightly asserts that we should not fear to be as efficient as the Germans lest like them we lose what is vital in democratic civilization. Technical education is not responsible for Germany, philosophy which exalts the state and makes the individual the servant of the state. Such a condition could not obtain in a British country, and least of all in Canada. But if we are to repair the wreckage of the war, pay our national debt and go on to a career of national progress we must produce more and develop our resources of every sort; and to do this we must train our young people for industrial efficiency. It is a national duty, but it is more than that, it is a duty we owe our children, that they may go out into life better equipped for the struggle in a highly specialized industrial, commercial, and social state. The question is a practical one, and it is up to the people of New Brunswick.

A BOOK WORTH READING.

To sit by an open fire on a blustery winter evening with Mr. I. C. Stewart's little book, *What Happened On Our West India Cruise*, as a companion, is to rise with a feeling that one would like to take the book, secure a berth on a Royal Mail steamship, and make the same cruise. Perhaps no better companion could be paid to the author of the book. It was not a book, or intended as a book, in the first place; but a series of articles printed in the *Maritime Merchant*, of which Mr. Stewart is the publisher. It is not a cause for surprise, however, that there came a demand for the publication of the letters in book form, for the pleasure of the general reader and the profit of future voyages to the West Indies. There is no attempt at fine writing, or at the production of a guide book; but just a series of impressions and memories, with here and there a historical reference, a reminiscence, a bit of description, a philosophical reflection, or a few useful facts relating to the people, the life, the products and prospects of a particular island. It is all done with the light touch of a trained journalist, who cannot help

seeing things and absorbing information, even when he is on a six weeks tour under doctor's orders. After reading the little book we are disposed to be grateful to the doctor who prescribed this particular vacation. Possibly a previous visit to the islands, and a study of their trade, relations with Canada was of benefit to the author, and notably so in his remarks on West India products, trade conditions and developments. But all this is incidental to the record of what a passenger did, and some of the things he thought about, between the dates when he boarded the Canada-West Indies steamer at Halifax and the day he left her six weeks later at St. John's.

There is a little map in the book, and some interesting photographs taken at the islands. Mr. Stewart went south in October, and visited Bermuda, St. Kitts, Antigua, Montserrat, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Barbados, Grenada and Trinidad. An unexpected and highly interesting incident of the voyage was the requisitioning of the steamer *Chaleur* by the governor of the Leeward Islands to take him and a relief party with supplies to Tortola, in the Virgin Islands, where a cyclone had killed twenty people, wrecked homes and destroyed crops. The steamer left a doctor, with medical stores and provisions, and the five thousand inhabitants were very grateful that a ship subsidized by Canada had found time to bring them relief before proceeding further on her voyage. It was all done in a day, and nobody was inconvenienced, least of all the health-seekers, who welcomed the diversion. Mr. Stewart gives his reader entertaining glimpses of life in the tropical islands, and incidentally observes that a comparison of the magazines and reviews the people read suggests that their knowledge of world movements may be superior to that of many of the citizens of Canada.

As a West India writer, Mr. Stewart sees no merit in it, nor does he find any sentiment in favor of it among the people of the islands, eager as they are to do more business with this country. Of the growth of trade, especially with Barbados, he writes: "When we were in Barbados seventeen years ago there was very little if any Canadian flour sold on that market. Today it practically controls the trade, and the same is true of several other cereals." Mr. Stewart makes us understand, rather than tells us, about the racial conditions on the islands; but in the case of Trinidad he quotes the Year Book to show there are over 200,000 blacks and 110,000 East Indians, besides the British, French, Spanish and Portuguese—making a very cosmopolitan people on an island that produces sugar, cocoa, coconuts and other tropical fruits; and is now developing a great oil industry, having exported 27,000,000 gallons of crude oil last year. Some of the people hope to see Trinidad become a centre of manufacturing. The trade is in the hands of the British, and the island appears to have a most promising future, although at present in great need of more labor from the East Indies. Mr. Stewart's book is full of interesting information presented in attractive form. It will undoubtedly be the cherished companion of many future tourists to the West Indies, while to all Canadians it will bring a store of useful knowledge in readable form concerning that portion of the British Empire whose location, climate and products make it in some sense the complement of Canada.

THE CONSERVATIVE CLUB.

The former Conservative Club of this city is now the Unionist Club. Mr. Potts, the former president, was not present at the third attempt to organize, and his name does not appear in the list of new officers or executive. There was more or less talk about patronage, which is clear evidence that this is the old Conservative Club, though under a new name. The theory of union government does not recognize such a thing as patronage, which is purely partisan and wholly objectionable. We are told that the name of Mr. W. B. Tennant was mentioned as that of a man who should be read out of the party. Why particularize in this way? Mr. Tennant is not and has not been the chief sinner. Why not begin at the top and read down? If that course were pursued the Liberals might be disposed to join up with the renegade, even though it were small. Until the Conservative party makes at least a real pretense to clean house politically, there is bound to be a lurking suspicion that clubs are organized to promote personal and partisan ends, rather than the general welfare of the country. The Standard this morning devotes but a short paragraph to the old club with the new name, and expresses its cordial view that this union government has come to stay. This is also the view of the *Sunshine Club*, which wants union government at Fredericton.

Prof. Sexton says that he envies St. John's its free kindergartens. While they have some in Halifax and Dartmouth schools they are not as well served as that respect as is St. John in point of the number of its supporters. He is a very pronounced supporter of the kindergartens as a valuable factor in education.

PROF. SEXTON AT CANADIAN CLUB

Gave Fine Address on Industrial Education

A GOOD INVESTMENT

Speaker Shows That Proper Attention to Education of Youth Would Produce Industrial Revival

The manner in which an industrial revival could be brought about in this province, "not by the giving of special privileges or an exemption from taxes, but by the training of the children in the schools to be skilled workmen," was clearly explained to a representative gathering of the Canadian Club at St. John's last evening by Professor F. H. Sexton, director of technical education for Nova Scotia and vocational officer of the military hospitals commission for Quebec and the maritime provinces. Professor Sexton has devoted his life to the study of the subject of technical education and his address was interesting and eloquent. Dr. J. H. Pink, president of the Canadian Club, was in the chair, and introduced the speaker of the evening. After the address was concluded a vote of thanks to Professor Sexton was moved by Judge McKewen and seconded by Inspector McLean.

Professor Sexton's Address.

Professor Sexton spoke, in part, as follows: No education is sound which is not true and thorough at its base in the common schools. The old subjects of the three R's and history should be taught minutely in the early years of school because these constitute the knowledge upon which all learning and good citizenship are built. One reason that so many eminent men had come from New Brunswick was because all the people there had a good education. The aim of high school training seems to be to prepare the students for the university. This is a laudable aim for those who are so fortunate as to be able to pursue a college course but this is only true of four or five per cent of the school population. The rest of the high schools should not be limited because we want to see more rather than less boys enter the world of work. But there should be technical courses running parallel to and of equal value to the general course which would fit the students for trades and callings.

Every business man and manufacturer knows the crying need for skilled workers and for these with training and intelligence enough to develop into bosses. There is practically no dearth of trained engineers and professional men in Canada today, but there is an appalling lack of men to supervise and guide the intricate processes in modern industry. There is also the enormous difficulty of finding thoroughly trained and skilled mechanics.

The Only Way.

If Canada is to participate to the fullest extent in the industrial and commercial life of the world, she must have a victorious peace, she can do this only by giving her people greater industrial intelligence and skill. These ends can be secured only through a wide and thorough system of technical education.

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McLean, Neb.—"I want to recommend Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound to all women who suffer from any functional disturbance, as it has done me more good than all the doctor's medicine. Since taking it I have a fine healthy baby girl and have gained in health and strength. My husband and I both praise your medicine to all suffering women."—Mrs. J. M. McLean, No. 1, McLean, Nebraska. This famous root and herb remedy, Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, has been restoring women of America to health for more than forty years and it will help any woman who suffers from displacements, inflammation, ulceration, irregularities, backache, headache, nervousness or "the blues." To give this successful remedy a trial.

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No special skill or knowledge and after the four years try to start in some trade if they have not already been spoiled for skilled work. There is a tremendous waste of boyhood and youth in getting fitted into some kind of a satisfactory employment. The great trouble is that they do not know how to do it. If this great defect were remedied, then a great percentage of those boys who leave school at the age when compulsory attendance stops, would remain. As it is now, neither the boy or his parents see any advantage in his staying at school as far as learning how to earn a dollar is concerned, and that is the largest consideration whether one practices it or not.

There must also be some provision for the technical training of the young men already gone to work. These young men have fitted into some kind of an occupation where they are earning a living and find that they need some more technical knowledge if they are to advance at all. At the present time these people enroll in the correspondence schools. This method of instruction is good in that it gives the student exactly the specialized knowledge he is after, but it is not nearly as satisfactory a method of learning as under a good teacher who can explain difficulties as they arise. There should be a system of evening technical schools in the larger centres in the province of New Brunswick, adapted to each locality to the needs of the industries of the place, and open to all workers who can gain the education desired without losing an hour's wages. At the present time nearly all the provinces in Canada have established these schools, and the people are continuously receiving the benefits of such training.

Manual Training.

Manual training, which is so successfully carried out in this province, is not technical education in the true sense of the term, because it is not carried out in industrial lines. The manual training is an absolutely necessary subject in the educational programme, because it gives every boy the chance to train his brain through the eye and the hand and satisfies the joy of creative effort that is common with us all. The time given to manual training in the schools is really too limited and should be largely increased.

There should, however, be real vocational work in the upper grades of the common school and in the high schools or academies. The main motive of such training should be to fit the young people for definite occupations. At the present time, outside of some commercial courses in a few places, the school training seems to be to prepare the students for the university. This is a laudable aim for those who are so fortunate as to be able to pursue a college course but this is only true of four or five per cent of the school population. The rest of the high schools should not be limited because we want to see more rather than less boys enter the world of work. But there should be technical courses running parallel to and of equal value to the general course which would fit the students for trades and callings.

Every business man and manufacturer knows the crying need for skilled workers and for these with training and intelligence enough to develop into bosses. There is practically no dearth of trained engineers and professional men in Canada today, but there is an appalling lack of men to supervise and guide the intricate processes in modern industry. There is also the enormous difficulty of finding thoroughly trained and skilled mechanics.

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COL. W. I. GREAR HERE.

Colonel W. I. Gear, superintendent of shipbuilding for the Imperial Munitions Board, who is on a tour of inspection of maritime province shipyards, arrived in St. John on Monday and left yesterday afternoon for Halifax.

He inspected Grant & Horne's yard and expressed satisfaction at the progress made. From Halifax he will go to Liverpool (N.S.) to look over a contract there. A second vessel will be built here when the first is off the cradle. The other vessels being built in eastern Canada under the Imperial Munitions Board are the six at Quebec, of the same size and character as that at the Grant & Horne yard.

Easy to Make This Fine Cough Remedy

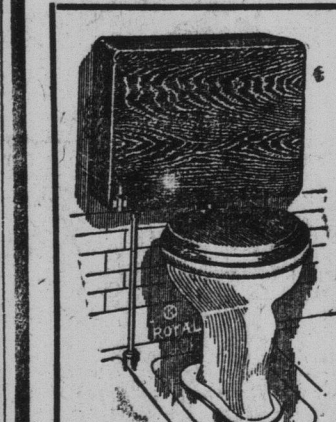
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He inspected Grant & Horne's yard and expressed satisfaction at the progress made. From Halifax he will go to Liverpool (N.S.) to look over a contract there. A second vessel will be built here when the first is off the cradle. The other vessels being built in eastern Canada under the Imperial Munitions Board are the six at Quebec, of the same size and character as that at the Grant & Horne yard.

Dimock Sears, Sackville. He was married.

FIND POTZINGHAM MOTHER WAS GERM.

Toronto, Feb. 12.—In the case of I. J. Potzingham, who was indicted at St. John after professing to be a member of the foreign office service, police say that after a thorough investigation they have failed to substantiate his alleged statements. It did show that he was a butler, and that although his mother was of German parentage his father was an Englishman. His effects contained nothing but letters and appeals from creditors.

It is understood that when the existing contracts for the Imperial Board have been completed, the Canadian yards will go on building ships for the Canadian government.

THREE DIE OF PNEUMONIA.

Sackville Tribune.—The death occurred about noon Friday of Henry Gamble, aged about 60, at his home in Wood Point, after an illness of a few days with pneumonia. This makes the third death in Wood Point within little more than a week, and all from the same cause. The late Walter Wood contracted pneumonia in Halifax and came home to Wood Point, where he died. His sister, Mrs. Alma Snowdon, who assisted in nursing Mr. Wood, soon succumbed, and now Mrs. Gamble, who also helped to wait upon Mr. Wood, makes the third victim. The late Mr. Gamble leaves two brothers and two sisters. His brothers are Thomas of Wood Point and David of Amherst. The sisters are Mrs. Isiah Bickerton, Middle, Sackville, and Mrs.

Heart Beat So Fast

Could Not Sleep HAD TO SIT UP IN BED

Heart trouble has of late years become very prevalent. Sometimes a pain catches you in the region of the heart, now and then your heart skips beats, palpitates, throbs, or beats with such rapidity and violence you think it will burst. You have weak and dizzy spells, are nervous, irritable and depressed and if you attempt to walk upstairs or any distance you get all out of breath.

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