

man is appointed by government and holds office for four years, and meetings are not open to the press."

The teachers of the Dominion are after all not to be precluded from judging for themselves of the respective merits of some of the school histories submitted to the judges in the late Canadian History Competition. When certain defects of the book finally selected were pointed out by one of our educationists in the Montreal Convention, the self-appointed secretary of the commission made a personal matter of the criticism and threatened the critic with a law suit, or something of that kind for uttering anything but the highest praise on the work the judges had chosen. The arguments he chiefly used were that the book was a cheap book, since it cost only fifty cents, and must be a good book, for the judges were good men. But what will the indiscreet secretary say, or what law-suits is he going to threaten to throw at our teachers' heads should they continue to institute a comparison between the selected text-book and Roberts' History in

favour of the latter as they are already beginning to do, or what ecstasy of indignation is he going to indulge in should Calkin's History (one of the books entered in the competition and now in the press) come to be preferred in Nova Scotia to both of them. The author of Clement's History and its publishers should place the secretary of the competition under surveillance, or rather should induce him to spend his spare time in preparing an audit sheet of the expenses of the commission and let our teachers judge for themselves as to the merits of the book the judges selected. They are busy comparing Clements' and Roberts', and when Calkin's appears they will be in a position to say whether the judges did their work of selection well or not, outside of Mr. Patterson and his threats of law suits.

Akin in spirit to an editorial of last month is the paper by Fidelis from the *Westminster*. In our opinion both these indicate the line of improvement most needed, one which has been much overlooked for years. It is high time we should mend our way in this regard.

CURRENT EVENTS AND COMMENTS.

The keen competition in foreign markets, which is now being encountered by the British manufacturer, has once again directed attention to the very excellent system of technical education which has proved one of the most potent agencies of success to his German rival. As is well known, a course of elementary education is compulsory throughout Germany. It is otherwise, however, with the technical branches of education, the study of which is left voluntary. As, however,

workmen who wish to qualify for the position of foreman in a factory must needs be provided with a certificate of technical efficiency, very large numbers of artisans and other workers attend either day or evening classes to obtain the necessary instruction. For the most part the technical institutes are supported partly by the exaction of small fees from the pupils and partly by grants from the state. In some instances students are only admitted after they have worked for