

# THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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from successful experience to academic attain-  
ments; more's the pity.

The only other way at present, and ever since  
1891, to get an inspector's certificate, requires a  
specialist's university standing, or an honor de-  
gree, with a high-school specialist's certificate.  
Do we ever hear of any of these specialists com-  
ing back to teach in a rural school? If a public-  
school teacher wishes to devote his life to the  
public schools, and is ambitious to serve them as  
an inspector, he is practically required to qualify  
through High-school specialism. It is as though  
the manager of the McClary Stove Works said to  
an ambitious moulder, "If you wish to become  
the foreman of the moulding shop some day, you  
had better go and study the science of jappanning,  
and work in the tinning department."

"The Farmer's Advocate" has never discour-  
aged literary and scientific culture. If the high-  
est grade of public-school teacher's certificate does  
not exact enough book-learning for an inspector's  
certificate, add another examination to it in such  
a way as not to compel men to leave the public-  
school service. The man who has always labored  
in the public schools, until his success has brought  
an inspectorship within sight, is probably mar-  
ried, or otherwise situated, so that he cannot  
drop his work to go and live in a university three  
or four years. The effect of the present regula-  
tion is to deprive the inspectorial office of all that  
invaluable experience.

For nearly twenty years, the highest grade of  
public-school certificate and five years' successful  
experience qualified for the inspector's certificate.  
If change were needed, it was in the direction of  
increasing the successful experience in the public-  
school field, not in substituting a High-school cer-  
tificate for the one mentioned. Rural-school edu-  
cation is out of joint, partly because its neck is  
twisted and drawn to get its head under the High-  
school yoke.

## OUR MARITIME LETTER.

### THE TECHNICAL OUTLOOK IN EDUCATION.

We had the pleasure of being part of and tak-  
ing part in the great Maritime Board of Trade  
meeting, at St. John, N. B., a week or so ago,  
and must say that, apart from the purely com-  
mercial matters which are supposed to occupy such  
gatherings, nothing seemed to engage more atten-  
tion than the question of Technical Education for  
the great Sea Division of Canada, and, transcend-  
ing this, a kind of sympathy in this particular  
system for the whole of the Federation. It is  
true that it has become quite popular of late to  
consider technical education as one of the proper  
things for up-to-date people to discuss; and, judg-  
ing from the hazy ideas expressed in cursory con-  
versation—aye, note-taking, even of some of the  
remarks of the speakers in public gatherings—this  
is a question which has not yet been as fully  
understood generally as it needs to be, before it  
can impress favorably a naturally conservative  
constituency.

To some people, technical education means  
purely and simply the intervention of the Govern-  
ment in the domain of instruction, to such an ex-  
tent that the beneficiary of it is not only loaded  
up with the knowledge of the branch of business  
he has a liking for, at the public expense, but the  
constituting of him afterward in this particular  
range of activity, where, under the paternal in-  
spection and direction, for that matter, of such  
benefactor, he may, without any serious exertion of  
his own, live and prosper automatically. Another  
version of being born with a silver spoon in one's  
mouth altogether. Anyone who has noticed the  
appetite developed in late years in our people for  
positions supported by the country, can readily  
apprehend how such a mental attitude on this  
question has invaded the rural communities. Of  
course, it is as unwise as it is absurd.

There are others who attend these gatherings,  
and keep up an agitation in the interim as to  
technics, who are well enough disposed to the  
community, but who certainly have become hobby-  
ists on their own particular line of the education,  
as they style it, wishing, as all zealous advocates,  
to impose it and themselves as its promoters on  
the whole country. To some, technical education  
can be restricted to mining engineering, and a  
school of this science is the only desideratum; to  
others, it is forestry and cognate matters, and  
here their longing ends; to others, still, the  
ordinary agricultural college seems to fill up the  
measure of desire, and so on, and so on. Then,  
in striving to do anything really practical for this  
divided community, you run counter to local, pro-  
vincial and collegiate jealousies. Some particular  
town or settlement has a college operating what  
it calls a technical department of one kind or an-  
other, and, because of priority in the field, is  
satisfied that all extension of this class of work  
should be left entirely to its care; one Province  
has made some expenditure in favor of a certain  
seat of learning within its borders, and, forsooth,  
all the others must recognize the pre-emption and  
bring the grist cheerfully to its mills; then, the  
colleges or universities with endowment in any  
specific direction are naturally jealous of any en-  
croachment, even if it aim at larger and better  
equipment elsewhere.

We had plenty of this divided opinion and sym-  
pathy when the matter came up at the St. John  
Board, and, whilst the whole important question,  
as vital to Maritime development, was discussed  
in a serious and quasi-disinterested manner gener-  
ally, the dominant feeling which the delegates will  
fetch back to their homes must be that of insuffi-  
cient knowledge on the whole meaning and in-  
tent of technical education for Maritime develop-  
ment, quite as much or more so than the difficul-  
ties which the details of a scheme, once decided  
upon, will impose in the working out. It turned  
out that the Nova Scotian Government had  
equipped a Faculty of Mineralogy at Dalhousie,  
and, as we all know, a School of Agriculture at  
Truro; that the Government of New Brunswick  
was equipping a Faculty of Forestry in the Uni-  
versity of New Brunswick, at Fredericton; that  
Mount Allison University, at Sackville, was, under  
certain liberal benefactions, doing good work in  
the way of mechanical engineering, etc., etc. How  
reconcile all these aims and aspirations under one

competent Maritime control? That was the ques-  
tion. And the Conference was not equal to it,  
so, at the suggestion of Hon. Mr. Pugsley, or  
somebody else, a committee was appointed of two  
from each of the three Provinces to interest the  
several Governments in the project, and see what  
could be done to unify demands and secure to the  
Sea Division of Canada a system of technical edu-  
cation commensurate with its demands. We are  
ourselves on this committee, which may develop in-  
to a commission with power to examine into the  
whole question of technical education and deter-  
mine on a Maritime plan, which, whilst in nowise  
menacing vested rights, so to speak, will respond  
to all legitimate requirements.

A. E. BURKE.

## DO WE NEED ORIENTAL LABOR?

Of the sorely vexing question of Oriental immi-  
gration there are two distinct phases, each of  
which is a complicated question in itself. There  
is the question of our Imperial and international  
relationships and the question of our own direct  
national interests or internal economy, so to  
speak. The former question is one calling for  
exercise of the most astute and delicate diplo-  
macy. The latter will bear candid and searching,  
though temperate public discussion. It is well  
that such discussion should take place, for while  
in the adjustment of the whole problem of Asiatic  
immigration international considerations must  
weigh heavily, nevertheless our national good,  
and especially the interests of our largest Prov-  
ince, cannot be sacrificed, and it is time to re-  
flect earnestly and wisely whether the admission  
of Japanese, Chinese, Hindu, Italian and other  
foreign laborers is ultimately desirable or whether  
it is not.

Certain members of the legal and other profes-  
sions, a considerable proportion of capitalists,  
a various people commonly designated by the re-  
strictive term "classes," look upon "the laborers"  
as a sort of vulgar herd necessary to perform cer-  
tain menial services, much as horses and oxen are  
employed. To the aforesaid classes the working-  
man never cuts any ice as a citizen except at  
election time, and very little then. Whether he  
lives well or poorly, whether he enjoys the boons  
of twentieth-century civilization, is a matter of  
small moment to these, so long as he is docile  
and toils cheaply to produce national wealth on  
which they, the classes, (who are mostly parasites  
from an economic point of view), may wax rich  
and fat. These people are inclined to look on  
cheap foreign laborers as necessary to do certain  
kinds of work, and more especially to hold the  
labor unions in check.

There is a very large class of other people, in-  
cluding many farmers, manufacturers, railroad  
contractors, canning companies, and others who  
sympathize moderately with the workingman and  
desire to see conditions made as easy and favor-  
able as possible for the lowliest classes of their  
fellow citizens, but who, thanks largely to our  
public-school systems, find a great dearth of  
capable, faithful laborers, and are inclined to re-  
gard the immigration of cheap-working foreigners  
as a necessary evil. The trouble with their view-  
point lies in what it assumes. They take it for  
granted that a rapid rate of material develop-  
ment is of paramount importance to the country.  
They see farms to be worked, factories to be run,  
railroads to be built, and assume that our nation-  
al progress depends upon our ability to do these  
things speedily on a large scale. They take it  
for granted also that any considerable increase in  
wages would render the accomplishment of these  
things impossible, or at least unprofitable, and  
honestly believe that the great need of the Do-  
minion is a large volume of cheap labor to do the  
work that native-born laborers disdain.

There is another class of people—and a grow-  
ing one, patriots in the highest sense, who can  
see past their own apparent interests, and try to  
fancy themselves in the laborer's position; who do  
not regard dollars as the sum and aim of national  
existence, but whose ambition for Canada is the  
building up of a nation of strong, free yeomen  
citizens, a nation in which the aim shall be to  
make opportunities as fair as possible for all, and  
where the special aim shall be to improve the  
position of the lowest class to the end that there  
may be no illiterate, grovelling, impoverished