

The Catholic Record

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NORMAL SCHOOLS AND THE PRACTICAL TRAINING OF TEACHERS

During the past week the Legislature of the Province was treated to a somewhat lively discussion on the question of Education. A member of the Assembly, who was the leading educational critic of the late Government, opened up the question by a vigorous attack on our present system, with some suggestions of a constructive character.

and imperfect training of many of those who hold teachers' certificates. The thoughtless theorists who propound schemes for improved educational conditions have always the ever-ready and ever-popular suggestion to increase the grants,—to give more legislative aid to schools. But there must be some limit to the assistance that can be given by the Legislature even for so important a matter as education.

by Theodule Girardot who carried on until 1870 when it was taken over by the Basilians by whom it has been conducted ever since. Thus next Wednesday will witness the completion of a half century of successful work for higher education carried on continuously by the Fathers now in charge. Our readers will remember that during the present year Sandwich College was affiliated with Western University so that it begins its second half century with enlarged powers of usefulness and under the happiest of auspices.

The characteristic of the Church of England—comprehensiveness— which many Anglicans glory in, that toleration of all sorts of conflicting opinions and beliefs, was naturally a difficulty to the straightforward, honest mind of Kinsman. On the occasion of the Panama Conference, when the Anglican—or Protestant Episcopal—Church seemed to be confronted with the question of whether she was Catholic or Protestant, he wrote: "It is strange that a great religious body should frequently be perplexed as to its identity, and seem to be the victim of ecclesiastical apathy."

And there are many non-Catholics who have come to realize that merely to pervert Ruthenian Catholics is not to make them good Canadian citizens. Indeed it would be surprising if the religious zeal which could sanction the devilish deception of bogus Masses held any thing higher than the monetary appeal for men of any origin with enough Christian or even pagan virtue in them to serve as the groundwork of good citizenship.

For considerations suggested by the foregoing we feel that one of the most valuable services to Church and country rendered through the instrumentality of the Catholic Church Extension Society of Canada during the past year was the foundation of a school at Yorkton by the English-speaking Christian Brothers of Toronto. No work that we know of should hold a higher appeal to the intelligence, religion and patriotism of Canadian Catholics; no work, if properly supported, is capable of such fruitful development.

And this is but one of the many good works which is revealed by the Annual Report of the Catholic Church Extension Society of Canada. SELF-PITY BY THE OBSERVER The condition of public society at the present day presents some very striking contradictions. That the spirit of self-sacrifice is not by any means dead amongst us is amply proven by the deeds of the Canadian army in the War, supplemented by the bravery and devotion of the women who gave their dear ones cheerfully to the cause of freedom.

History is like the tides on an ocean shore; and as the tides it shows ebb and flow. Humanity has never moved continuously in one direction. The people of Canada are today, on the whole, the most prosperous people on the earth. But shall we be always so? Or shall we suffer a reaction? Who knows? Our self love and self-pity have brought us now to the point where the necessity of working at all seems, to many of us, an intolerable burden. We talk of a six-hour day, and we may soon talk of a thirty minute hour.