

they are granted, but may be transferred to another county or extended according to the regulations of the Education Department, which retains to itself the power of saying how long they shall be valid. It is very doubtful if all the changes mentioned above will be improvements. If Mr. Russ wishes to secure men of standing in the community to act as trustees, he must not have the election on the same day as the municipal election, nor must he subject each trustee to the trouble of appearing annually before his constituents for re-election. Should the Bill in its present form become law we feel safe in predicting that the character of our Public School Boards will degenerate. By the changes in the method of administering the Superannuation Fund, Mr. Ross hopes no doubt to effect a saving to the Province, but he might have tried to do this without violating the terms upon which present contributors were compelled by legal enactment to join it. Why should he not let it die out by permitting the annual contribution to remain as heretofore, and thus avoid committing the Legislature to what appears very like a breach of faith with the teacher? The dignity of that body and of the Province demands this. We see no good reason why, in cities and towns, the holidays for Public school children should not continue to be the same as those for the scholars in High Schools. Indeed the tender age of the former is a cogent reason why they should be longer, if the health of the children is to be considered.

The International congress of Educators, which was held at New Orleans during the last week in February, must have got through an enormous amount of work, if it listened to all the papers that were prepared for it. There were no less than twenty-three from Ontario alone, and there must have been a proportionate number from the various States of the Union. The Congress was divided into five sections for the consideration, respectively, of Elementary Education, Secondary Instruction, Superior Instruction, Instruction of the Defective, Dependent, and Delinquent, and Architecture and Hygiene of Buildings for Instruction. To all of these competent writers in Ontario contributed papers. The chief good we can hope to be derived from such a gathering is the influence that will be exerted by those who attended it in spreading the knowledge they acquired and in diffusing the ideas with which they were impressed.

It may interest our readers to know that Dr. Findlater, the distinguished editor of Chambers' Cyclopaedia, Etymological Dictionary, and other works, who died recently, was sent out in 1836, by the Colonial Office, to superintend the establishment of schools in Canada. The Rebellion of 1837 prevented him from beginning a work that ten years afterwards fell to the lot of Dr. Ryerson to accomplish.

A MOVEMENT is on foot in England to affiliate the training colleges for schoolmasters to the universities, and to have their two years' curriculum so modified that the work done in them might help the students forward to university degrees. The arguments advanced in favour of this change are, that it would bring teachers more in sympathy with the literary life of the country; it would secure to them wider and higher culture; it would place them less at the mercy of the Education Department; the stimulus it afforded would develop more talent for the nation's benefit in the training of the young, and it would further intellectual culture among the masses.

MR. MUNDELLA, who performs the duties of a Minister of Education in England, pointed out on the occasion of the opening of a new Board school recently, that the school attendance in Great Britain had risen in a few years from 2,000,000 to over 5,000,000, and that one of the startling results of this increase was the decrease of juvenile crime. Indeed, he said the London Chief of Police averred that the diminution of crime was startling even to him, and he attributed it to the fact that now instead of deodorizing the stream of crime at its mouth, they got rid of the pollution at its source. Mr. Mundella did not fail to point out the moral of this by saying that it was better to pay a high school rate than to pay an equal amount for the repression of crime.

THE largest elementary school in the world is the Jews' Free School in Spitalfields, London. It has 3,200 scholars, and an average daily attendance of ninety-five per cent. Its efficiency may be inferred by the fact that its grant from the Government during the past year rose to £1 0s. 5d. per scholar, which is the largest grant ever secured by any school. The scholars attending it are principally the children of Russian and Polish Jews, and are of the very poorest class. Through the benevolent care of a number of wealthy Jews in London, the health and comfort of the children are sedulously cared for.

CENSOR.

HERE AND THERE.

THERE appears to be, unfortunately, considerable danger that the firm of Goth, Ostrogoth, Vandal and Company will succeed in completing the mutilation of Niagara Falls and the vicinity. Justification for the triple spanning of the world-famed gorge is found in the demands of public convenience, and if an International Park could be made, to extend over both sides of the cataract, much would be done to preserve the natural beauties of its surroundings. Our American neighbours have set a worthy example in this direction, and their lead has been followed by a number of gentlemen in Canada. The original suggestion of an International Park is ascribed to Lord Dufferin in a letter addressed to the Governor of New York State in 1878. Be that as it may, the idea was taken up by a syndicate who, finding that neither the Dominion nor the Provincial Legislature was disposed to undertake the work, propounded a scheme for the preservation of the natural beauties of the Canadian Falls and the construction of a public park, such improvements to be carried out by a company,

which the Local Legislature was asked to incorporate. The support of Mr. Mowat's Government for the bill formulated was confidently reckoned upon, and apparently with good reason. The favourable reception given, however, to a rival bill the object of which is to build a railway under the river bank, and which construction would fill the pockets of the propounders at the price of ruining the primitive beauties of the place, seems to indicate that the Government is unable to withstand the pressure of its interested supporters, even where a vandalism is threatened.

MR. PHIPPS' Forestry Report for 1884, like its predecessor, is a welcome addition to the stock of local knowledge on a subject on which public interest is only just beginning to be awakened. Much practical individual experience, collected by Mr. Phipps, is here preserved for the guidance of such as need assistance in the mystery of tree-planting and tree-growing. In the older parts of Ontario the time for destroying forests is over, and the time for tree if not forest growing has come; and in this new branch of industry there are thousands who need instruction and to whom those reports will be of essential service.

"RED hair is all the fashion in London and Paris" we are told by a usually well-informed contemporary. But we nowhere read that baldness, common though it has become, is "fashionable." Certainly a young American lady has been known to express the opinion—or at least, so goes the story—that a pair of binoculars surmounted by an "extensive array of forehead" will make even a common-place looking man appear learned. Excepting such indirect apologies, however, no well-authenticated defence of baldness is known, nor would a dissertation upon the subject be ordinarily looked for outside a barber's shop. But it is the unexpected which always happens. In the Report of the Chinese Commission may be found the following: "To that tyrannical and narrow judgment ever found aggressive where ignorance is supreme, the pig-tail, the shaving the front part of the head, the blouse and shoes, are all so many marks of inferiority. Yet the labourers of one of the most civilized of nations wear the blouse; and as to shaving the front part of the head, shaving the chin might, from an absolute stand-point, appear as ridiculous, while amongst ourselves in these days of over-strained nervous energy nature frequently imposes a denuded front, and goes even farther still, without the aid of scissors; nor is it so long since queues were seen in the drawing-rooms of St. James' and Versailles." Those who have the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with the genial secretary of the Commission will note the above with peculiar interest.

THE continuous stream of exaggeration upon the Anglo-Russian incident which has set to these shores seems to have created a bellicose if not a Russophobic spirit in some Canadian writers, and the opinion is glibly given that England could, metaphorically speaking, knock Russia out in a couple of rounds. Far be it from any of us to think lightly of British prowess, but experience teaches that the fastest talkers are not ever the best fighters—else what an army might be enlisted in the Jingo music halls! Nor is that general considered the most prudent who decries the enemy and talks "sound and fury signifying nothing." Looked at calmly, what could England do if Russia marched on Herat? Wherein lies the force of any threat of war on England's part against Russia? If she declared war, where and how would she begin? She cannot reach St. Petersburg. The forts of Cronstadt, from which Sir Charles Napier drew back, and which have been immensely strengthened since then, bar the way. She cannot attack Odessa, or Batoum, or any part of Southern Russia. The Sultan would not permit her to pass the Bosphorous. Where else is Russia assailable? England might capture her merchant ships, but the trade of Russia could easily be transferred to the German railways, much to the satisfaction of Prince Bismarck. The truth is that Russia is all but invulnerable to British arms. It has been England's policy for a couple of generations to keep Russia out of those positions where she could have reached her, and made her responsible in Europe for her conduct in Asia. If she had but an island in the Aegean, England would have some hold upon her, but she has steadily refused her permission to put in this small amount of bail. No doubt the immense resources at the command of a nation so wealthy as Britain would enable her in the end to prevail, but it would be at the cost of oceans of blood and endless treasure. It is well to see facts as they are, and not to indulge in idle dreams. If England wants to check Russia in Asia, she must change her policy in Europe, and look for remedies and safeguards nearer home.

"WHEN peoples are being inflamed against each other by the 'Jingoes' of Europe, who swarm in the press, on the platform, in political circles, and on the bourses, one is reminded of Carlyle's quiet villagers of Dumdrudge, who might be collected like so many chattels, sent to a war they knew nothing about, and required to kill or be killed by men whom they had never seen and with whom they had no quarrel." So says a writer in the *Liverpool Mercury*, and there are many who will subscribe to the sentiment. If the masses of different nations are ever to understand and sympathize with each other, they must take the matter into their own hands. At the present moment the air is thick with rumours of plots and aggressions. Englishmen are urged to spend vast sums on fleets and armies when tens of thousands are eating the bread of charity, because it pleases the pugnacious section to think that Prince Bismarck, M. de Giers, or M. Ferry, or all combined, are conspiring against British interests. We never hear that the German people, or the Russian people, or the French people, cherish any hostile feelings towards the English people, and it would not be true if we did hear it; but we are constantly told that the