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IN Washington Territory school matters appear to be conducted in a mode hardly satisfactory, according to a statement contained in a communication from Mr. John Tait, a Canadian, who has taken up his abode there. The fact of his having been at one time a school teacher in this country, will lend to his views additional interest to most of our readers. He writes from Tacoma, under date of 24th December, to the *Guelph Daily Mercury*, that in educational matters everything is as yet pristine. There is comparatively little system in the management of schools. A liberal support is given, but the results are comparatively meagre. There is a perplexing variety of text-books. The instruction sought for and given is superficial. The substantial is not wanted. Polish and show meet all demands. Private schools and colleges are numerous and well supported. Boarders in these institutions pay, without grudging, \$6 to \$8 a week, besides extras for their board and tuition.

Day pupils pay from 75c. to \$1.50 per week. How many schools in Canada would dare to impose such fees? The salaries run from \$35 to \$60 per month for actual service. In each county, every two years, the people elect a superintendent from amongst the teachers. This superintendent teaches as long as he can each year, spending two or three months in examining the schools of his or her fellow teachers. There are in the Territory eighteen male and fifteen female superintendents. There is, besides, a Territorial superintendent who teaches part of his time. These superintendents receive a salary of \$300 or \$400 besides their salary as teachers. From this you may see that this is by no means a land of milk and honey for teachers. Four or five schools in the Territory pay from \$1,000 to \$1,500 a year for principals.

EDWARD ATKINSON'S paper "on the relative strength and weakness of nations," in the New Year's number of the *Century Magazine*, is both interesting and instructive. The paper very properly begins with an explanation of what the term "strength" as applied to a nation means. He borrows his definition from a writer on finance, who lived and flourished in the good old pre-revolution days, one Pelatiah Webster. The riches of a nation, according to this old economist, do not consist in the abundance of money it possesses, "but in number of people, in supplies and resources, in the necessaries and conveniences of life, in good laws, good public officers, in virtuous citizens, in strength and concord, in wisdom, in justice, in wise counsels and manly force." Having thus shown what, in his estimation, constitutes the real strength of a nation, Mr. Atkinson goes on to show in what degree the United States contains these elements of strength. As the conditions of progress are almost the same in Canada as they are in the United States, the facts adduced and the conclusions arrived at by Mr. Atkinson are almost as interesting to Canadians as they are to the citizens of the great republic.

THERE is one subject on which Mr. Edward Atkinson's statistics, in his article "on the relative strength of nations," published in the *Century Magazine*, are peculiarly interesting. He shows that the growth of wealth in the United States is synonymous with growth in the general welfare, that there is no truth in the complaint that while the rich have been growing richer, the poor have been growing poorer. He shows in the first place that the earning power of money is less, very much less, than it was twenty years ago. In 1864 \$100 gold invested in United States bonds of the best class earned \$16.66 per cent. per year. At the present time the earning power of \$100 in gold coin invested in 4½ per cent. bonds is only \$2.20 per cent. per year. From this it is clear that the capitalist does not get as much for his money as he did twenty years ago. Let us see how it is with the labourer. In 1860 the wages of a workman of ordinary capacity was \$1.68 gold, in 1865 it was \$2.85 in depreciated paper, in 1886 it was \$2.04 in gold, in 1860 a workman of superior skill earned \$3.37 per day, in 1865 \$2.75, paper. In 1885 such a workman earned \$3.00 per day. Now let us see what the purchasing power of the workman's wages were at these different dates, that is how much of the necessaries and comforts of life would the workman's dollar buy. The purchasing power of the dollar in 1860 is taken as the standard. At that date the workman's dollar would purchase him one hundred cents' worth of two hundred articles on which the calculation is based. In 1865 his dollar would buy him only 56.84 cents' worth, but in 1885 he could buy with his dollar 1.26.44 worth, that is one dollar in 1885 was as good to the workman as \$1.26 in 1860. This is different from the general belief, but it is true, nevertheless. The deposits in the savings bank of Massachusetts show that the working classes were much better off in 1885 than they were in 1865. In that year the amount of the deposits in the savings bank of that state was \$59,936,482, in 1885 it was \$274,998,412. The population in 1865 was 1,267,329, in 1885 it was 1,941,465.