

ADDITIONAL SUMMARY.

AFTER three years' harnessmaking, at Fullarton, F. A. Taylor, has assigned.—In January, 1890, E. Dundas bought the grocery stock of W. J. Holmes, at Ingersoll, but soon granted credits too freely. He was, consequently, obliged to compromise liabilities of \$8,000 with creditors at 50 per cent. in October, 1898. Since then he has been unable to improve his position, and now he assigns.—Another assignment is that of W. C. Schrieber, oil producer, London.—M. C. Pink, manager of the M. C. Pink Co., Limited, junk dealers in this city, has been arrested for fraud in connection with the sale of some stuff. Last Monday a meeting of their creditors was held, when it was shown that they owed \$2,500, and to pay this they have nominal assets of \$700. As no offer of settlement was made, the business will be wound up.—Alex. E. Chandler came from London, England, in the autumn of 1897, and opened a general store at Orange Ridge, Man., but was unfortunately burnt out in Feb., 1900. Being well insured, creditors did not suffer any loss. He resumed business, but being somewhat handicapped for want of capital, he now assigns.

—An editor, in an obituary of a man who died in the community, said: "A long procession followed the remains to their last roasting-place." Of course the family rushed to the newspaper office to have the error corrected. The editor explained that he could not do it until seven years' back subscription the deceased owed had been paid. It was done and the obituary was changed. All editors are now lying low for a chance to roast their debtors of five years and upwards.

RELIGION AND PLAY.

At last week's session of the Congregational Union, a conference was held upon the subject of "Young People's Work." It appeared from several speakers that membership in the Young People's society of Christian Endeavor is declining, and various theories were put forward to account for the decline. It was urged, and with some truth, that the enthusiasm of the members had taken a spectacular direction, trying to make each convention bigger than the last, or bigger than those of other bodies. But the craze for a spectacle had died out; and the decline has come. One paper urged that fewer fireworks and more work might properly characterize the society.

But another paper was submitted on this occasion, entitled "Young Canada and Play," which took the view that sport was natural, and had an important place in the community and in the Church. The author considered the Church had a duty in purifying sport. This was very displeasing to Rev. M. S. Grey, of Laurel, who said that he did not approve of this idea of the churches devoting so much attention to play. "I believe," he said, "in spending life in cultivating the intellect, and I believe it a species of false training to be playing so much. It is diverting the young people of Canada to-day from attending the Church of Christ and its exercises, and instead of the Church encouraging so much play as it does at the present day, I think it is sinful to do so. Christ, in describing the moral life, does not mention a single instance of kicking a ball around a field, or hitting it with a bat."

But this narrow view of Mr. Grey's was vigorously combatted by Rev. W. F. Clarke, of Guelph, who took a position which is held by a large number of modern clergymen and laymen. Namely, that to devote one's life to self-sacrificing labor and take no account of proper recreation is to shorten the span of life which God has given to every man. Believing apparently that there is a great deal of human nature about a boy, and that he cannot well be made either a monk or an angel in this sinful world. Rev. Mr. Clarke urged that all work and no play for young persons was not only impracticable but wrong. He strongly defended play. He also said "he believed that smoking had saved his life; we must not be fanatics in these matters. He had taken to smoking to cure himself of insomnia, but the insomnia had come upon him through his following the advice of misguided friends, who had, in his youth, persuaded him that there should be no play in his life." There are a number of good people who believe that we should spend all our leisure time, week day and Sunday, in church or Sabbath school, just as there are others who tell us that every man or boy should have a book in his hand every hour he is not working or sleeping. But the common sense of the community will not adopt the visionary plan of either of these classes, and will insist that play has a necessary place in a young man's life.

FOREIGN BONDS AS INVESTMENTS.

The recent action of American capitalists in taking \$50,000,000 of the new British war bonds gives timely interest to the article by Professor Woolsey, in the May Forum in which he discusses the risks in all kinds of foreign bonds. He points out the radical differences between government bonds and private loans. A government bond has no collateral behind it—no property on which the creditor may levy in case of default. The security of such a loan depends upon the credit and the good faith of the state that borrows. Nor can the bondholder proceed single-handed against his debtor by judicial methods. His only redress is through the diplomatic interference of his government. If he be a small and unimportant holder he may have to wait long before he can set the government machinery to work. In theory the final redress for default on the part of a foreign government is through war, but Professor Woolsey remarks that it is absurd to depend upon that resource. As a matter of policy, war could be thought of only as against a weaker power. As a matter of common sense, the cost of the remedy would be enormously out of proportion with the amount of the wrong. The man who buys foreign bonds, therefore, practically assumes the risks and is helpless in case of default. Another item to be considered is the fact that foreign governments show an increasing tendency to tax their bonds, whether held at home or abroad. Thus the British consols are liable to an income tax of 29 cents on the pound, sterling. There are plenty of valuable properties to invest in in the United States. Why take a chance, besides send money to assist in developing a foreign nation?—The National Banker.

A DRY SUBJECT TREATED SPORTIVELY.

One is so little accustomed to expect anything fanciful from a schoolmaster—to think of a person in the department of education as otherwise than grave and solemn, that some of the contents of this

pamphlet strike the reader with a pleased surprise. The pamphlet, namely, containing a paper by A. H. MacKay, LL.D., superintendent of Education in Nova Scotia, on "Three Great Reforms—How may we hasten them?" This was read before the Dominion Educational Association several years ago. At a later meeting its publication was authorized. The three reforms which Mr. Mackay would enforce are, 1st, that of Weights and Measures; 2nd, our Spelling; 3rd, our Handwriting. Of the Metric System, the only one we can at present notice, he says: The scientific sections of the English-speaking people are practically a unit in favor of the system. In fact it would be a great relief to them, as they would then need only one system, whereas now they need two. If any wooden-headed Saxon does not like the system because the French were the first to put the new idea into effect and turn the same out into the world dressed in orthography Parisian—"metre,"—he can by simply re-cutting the tail of the dress-coat make it a very respectable English costume—"meter"—derived from the Greek, of which no one is jealous to-day. He can reflect that as the system is based on the size of the world, its utilization after all must more particularly belong to that people who have the most extensive mortgage on the terrestrial sphere. And if such reflections do not smooth away his objections, then you have made a mistake—it is not an Anglo-Saxon you have in hand at all.

Then the system is as natural as the present one, when we once become used to it, notwithstanding the largeness of the decimal ratio. The millimeter is the line. The centimeter is the breadth of the nail of the little finger. The decimeter is the hand—the breadth of the palm. The meter is the stride or long pace. The square millimeter is the point. The square centimeter is the square nail. The square decimeter is the palm. The square meter is not much more liberal as a unit of "squatting room" than the square yard, but it is no worse. The cubic millimeter is a very fair grain of volume. The cubic centimeter every one has at the top of his finger—the top of his little finger if he is a very great man. And if he is not altogether too big for it, his fist may be enclosed in a cubic decimeter box. And he can have his whole body shipped in a cubic meter box, with room for sufficient packing to enable him to sleep comfortably during transit. As the human body has about the same specific as water, the cubical tip of his little finger gives him a convenient unit of weight—the gram. While the cubical box into which he can thrust his fist gives a convenient unit for the measure of capacity—the liter. These natural measures are just as accurate as the original natural Troy grain, the original king's foot, or the original English, Flemish, Scotch, or French elbow. And if the present terms are too cumbersome there is more than one way in which we might suggest the reduction of their size to a simple monosyllable, or at least to a dissyllable. Thus the technique of all calculations would be enormously simplified, and so would the course of study in the common or elementary schools, which should be complete in itself for all common practical purposes."

MEN OF MANY PATENTS.

The United States Commissioner of Patents says that Thomas A. Edison heads the list of American inventors, with a record of 742 patents, mostly of electrical devices, those ranking next to him being given in the order named, with the line of their chief inventions specified: 2. Francis H. Richards, 619; weighing machines.