

# The Chatham Daily Planet.

(MAGAZINE AND EDITORIAL SECTION.)

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(PAGES NINE TO TWELVE)

## Dearth of School Teachers

Serious Situation Faces the Education Department—Low Salaries the Primary and One Reason—Rural Schools are Suffering in Consequence.

Ontario's educational system is seriously threatened. Throughout many of the rural sections of the province there is a scarcity of teachers and the Department has been obliged to admit students to the schools who have not prepared for one year's teaching experience as required by the regulations. Low salaries are said to be the primary and almost only reason for the dearth of teachers.

The Deputy Minister of Education, Mr. John Millar, gave the Mail and Empire an interesting interview last night on the subject. Mr. Millar holds that the teachers of the province are poorly paid, and until the teaching profession is made more attractive, in a pecuniary sense, desirable young men and women will not be secured. He makes the somewhat radical proposal that a legislative grant be made to boards of school trustees and apportioned according to the educational attainments of the teachers they employ. He points out also that unless higher salaries are paid the result will be that permits to teach will have to be granted, and while teachers may be secured in this way, they will not have the proper experience or training so necessary to the successful instruction of children.

"The present scarcity of teachers," said Mr. Millar, "in many parts of the province is largely due to the general prosperity of the country. Young persons find that they can do better in other callings than teaching. The advertisements which appear in the daily newspapers for help show that there are many avenues open to young men and young women of ability and talent. The remuneration offered in many of these callings for which help is wanted is greater than that paid to teachers. Indeed, the salaries of public school teachers in Ontario are exceedingly low. How can it be expected that \$250 or \$300 a year will secure the services of ambitious young persons of both sexes? Under the present regulations to become a second-class teacher requires, ordinarily, four years' training at a high school or collegiate institute, three months at a county model school, and one year's attendance at a normal school, when, if examinations are successfully passed, a second-class certificate may be obtained.

"It is really unfortunate that we have not some inducements to offer to retain successful public school teachers in the profession. I fear that improvement can be expected only when some financial or other inducement is brought to bear on the situation. The experience of the province in educational affairs shows that much may be done if legislative aid is wisely distributed.

During this year more has been accomplished in establishing school libraries than in the twenty years. The reason for this is clear. Aid from the province is given to the trustees to purchase books. Boards of trustees all along had the power to establish libraries, but without financial assistance, and consequently little was done in this line until legislative grants made.

Other evidence of the advancement of legislative aid is furnished by the fact that in the past few years there was much difficulty in obtaining fifth book classes. Pupils who when they passed the high entrance examination. Now, early every village having no school there is in operation a division class, and pupils have advantage of a secondary education at home. This has been brought about by the expenditure of some \$100,000 by the Government in assisting in carrying on this work. The improved regulations of high schools furnish another illustration of the benefits arising from regulations framed so as to be legislative aid in proportion to effort.

The expenditure made by the various boards of trustees throughout the province is the leading factor in determining the amount to be received by the Government. The result has been that our high schools have made wonderful progress, not only as regards buildings and equipment, but also as regards the qualification and salary of the teacher. Why not apply, with some modifications, to the public schools a principle which has accomplished so much for high schools? At present the Legislature

votes about \$300,000 annually to be distributed on the basis of school attendance among the different public schools. A different mode of distributing this grant would accomplish a great deal of good.

"I think that a board of trustees which employs a teacher holding a permit should receive no Government aid. A school having a third-class teacher whose salary is at least \$300 a year might receive a certain grant; a school having a second-class teacher, whose salary is at least \$400, might receive a larger grant, while a school with a first-class teacher, whose salary is at least \$500, might be given a still larger grant.

"This scheme embodies the principle I have in view, namely, that the certificate and salary paid to a teacher should determine the amount of the legislative grant. If this idea were carried out there would be a disposition on the part of the teachers to remain in the profession.

"Another thing I wish to draw attention to is the unjust system which exists at present, whereby a third-class teacher is practically placed on the same footing as a first-class teacher."

Mr. Millar added that the scarcity of teachers was a rather serious matter. He believes that if his idea were carried out the profession would be made a great deal more attractive.—The Toronto Mail and Empire.

## LARGE PUFFBALL

Yale. — A puff ball weighing forty pounds was found on the farm of Lemuel Brown. This knocks higher than a kite the Coldwater puffer which was reported a couple of weeks ago.

## OUT NO FIGURE

West Branch.—A man in a town not a thousand miles from here, was found with some fine trout in his basket, out of season, by a vigilant game warden. He was brought into court and on demand was given a jury trial. It was easily proven that the man was guilty, although by an oversight the fish were not brought into court; in fact, he admitted having the trout, but the jury nevertheless brought in a verdict of "not guilty." After the trial the game warden intimated to one of the jurors that if the trout had been produced in court, their verdict might have been different. "Not a bit," replied the administrator of law and justice.

## KANGAROO TALE

Grand Rapids.—There is a young man in Grand Rapids who lives up well in the hill district, and a young woman, to whom he is quite devoted, whose place of residence is somewhat nearer to the downtown district. Both are employed in offices and every morning walk to their work together. The manner of their meeting is peculiar and has resulted in the young man being named "The Tale of the Kangaroo." Each morning when he arrives in front of the boarding house of his innamorata, he whistles a bar and as a result the young woman promptly appears and they walk away supremely unconscious that the neighbors have noticed the diurnal appearance of the "Tale."

## THIS BEATS DOWIE

Profit Elijah the Fishbaiter Dowie claims to have cured all manner of diseases by his hocus-jocus—here you are methods of "laying on of hands," but as far as recorded in the veracious Chicago newspapers he has never claimed the distinction of making a dumb man speak. Such a miracle is alleged to have occurred in Indiana through the agency of a chew of tobacco. It is said that two years ago F. M. Wolf, of Stone Station, Ind., was struck by lightning and until last Sunday had been unable to utter a sound. Some of the leading specialists in the state were consulted and declared that Wolf was afflicted with permanent paralysis of the vocal organs. Last Saturday night Wolf dreamed that a chew of tobacco would restore his speech. The man had been a habitual user of the weed before the accident, but afterward the habit became annoying to him and made him sick. This caused him to quit the habit entirely. Acting on the dream he took a chew of tobacco Sunday morning, and a few hours afterward he was able to make slight vocal sounds. He kept on chewing and soon was able to talk. This case seems to make Dowie's anti-tobacco theories a trifle ill.

## ANY INDUCEMENT?

Harbor Beach. — A lumberman near Rogers City, who has found men for the woods hard to secure this fall, has formulated the following set of rules which he thinks may help him: "Wages are \$5 a day. Breakfast will be from 10 a. m. to 2 p. m., with an hour and a half for noon. All heavy work done by the foreman. Free beer. Any man working the winter out can have the season's cut."

## THREE TIMES

Lyons.—Three crops of apples from the same tree in one season is a rare thing, but H. C. Hammon reports such an occurrence. He has a maiden-blossomed tree in his yard which has blossomed this year three distinct times—first in early spring, second in the middle of July and third early in September. The first yield was 20 bushels, the next one bushel and the last about a peck.



FOR A NOON WEDDING.

White Etamine, with Cluny lace, was worn by a bridesmaid recently. The coat shows a postillion back with insertions of the lace, which also forms the long stole fronts. The sleeves are unusually full. The skirt shows two rows of the lace beneath two deep tucks and is worn over a trained Sorella skirt. The long ostrich feather boa shows a new shape.

## SACHEL OF THE SATELLITE...

The Soo election didn't foot me at all.

I have a suspicion that this isn't Indian summer.

I wonder if the Council of 1903 will add to the minus surplus. No, they will surely never be guilty of that.

The "adders" report didn't make the aldermen feel very frisky. These over-drafts of past Councils had a chilling effect.

I just have a haunting suspicion that the reason for the News throwing cold water on the City Council's great Pere Marquette car-shop deal is to be found in the fact that this G. H. J. suggested the procedure, which has resulted so successfully.

The Hamilton Police Force haven't carried firearms in twenty years. Now that one of their number has been killed the policemen of the Ambitious City are to be armed. The Chatham Police Force didn't carry efficient firearms either until after one of their number had been killed. History merely repeats itself, and you can figure out your own moral.

That Muskoka election looks like another case of Hart-failure.

Wonder what the Ross government is going to do with all that Crossin music?

That election in Muskoka proves that the Ontario Government are a Hart-less lot.

While everybody is taking credit for getting the car-shops they have overlooked the claims of the Satellite to the honors.

I was in some doubt as to who really did get the car-shops until Ald. G. G. Martin assured me that he was the man behind the pull.

The only redeeming feature about that man Smith, the Grit candidate at the Soo is that he is an editor. Even that should not have saved him.

When I recall the old saying, "No news is good news," I don't want to appear to cast any reflections on any contemporary, but I must say that those old adage makers certainly knew what they were talking about.

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## The Days of Auld Lang Syne

Interesting Events of Ye Olden Times Gathered from The Planet's Issues of Half a Century Ago.

From Planet files, Jan. 28, 1857, to February 9, 1857.

A long account of the assassination of the Archbishop of Paris, Monsignor Sibourn, is published, with comments from the Paris Patrie and the Paris Droit.

A case of breach of promise was tried at the Toronto assizes, in which the plaintiff, Miss Matthews, recovered 200 pounds' damages from the defendant, Mr. Eyper, of Hamilton.

An inquest was held before Dr. A. R. Robertson, of Chatham, coroner, over the body of Abraham Weeder, who was killed by a boiler explosion. Dr. D. S. McKellar, of Wardsville, performed the post mortem.

Edwin Larwell publicly announces his intention to again offer himself as a candidate for parliament.

Rev. Wm. Ormeston delivered an address in the Town Hall, under the auspices of the Mechanics' Institute, on Self Culture.

A distressing accident occurred on the Grand Trunk railway about two miles east of here. Two daughters and a young son of Mr. Abraham Mayer, of this place, crossing the track were overtaken by a pilot engine, which ran over the cutter, killing the eldest daughter, breaking the thigh of the younger, and breaking the arm of the son.

A Fireman's ball was held in the Eberts building. It was a huge success.

"The dancing hall is one of the finest in Western Ontario, being 50 feet in length by 32 in width. The Luker band was on hand and aided the gaiety of the evening."

The first meeting of the County Council for 1857 was held on Monday, Jan. 26, for the purpose of choosing a warden. There were present: For Harwich, John McMichael and John Mueckie; Chatham, S. Arnold; Chatham town, A. McKellar and J. Smith; Raleigh, H. Ronalds and Thos. Parbo; Dover, E. and Wm. Thos. Crow; Howard, Dr. Rolls and John Desmond; Romney, Mr. Robinson; Tilbury, Jas. Smith; Orford, no return, but Mr. McLean probably elected; Zone, Mr. Munroe, Bothwell, Jas. Smith, Henry Ronalds, Dr. Rolls and Samuel Arnold were nominated for warden and Mr. Smith was elected.

Edition of Feb. 2.—We are pleased to observe that our County Council have taken the initiatory steps to nip in the bud the scheme for the severance of Zone and Orford from the County of Kent. If a new county must be formed, let it, as we said before, be composed of the west riding of Middlesex, which is already set off for electoral purposes—with Wardsville as its county seat.

The Town Council met Jan. 31. Present, his worship the Mayor and Councillors Askin, Keating, Ireland, Tilt, Burns, McKellar and McCrae. The following officers of the town were elected:—

Market Clerk—John Smith. Auditors—Dr. Pegley and William McKeough.

Inspector, etc.—Henry Chrysier. Assessors—James Higgins, Israel Evans and Richard Monk. Poundkeepers—Chatham North, Donald McKerrall; Chatham South, John Smith, market clerk.

An address of confidence was tendered Rev. F. W. Sanders, rector of St. Paul's Church, Chatham. It was signed by the following members of his church: Duncan McGregor, Edwin Larwell, W. D. Eberts, W. R. Armstrong, A. P. Salter, John Mercer, Thomas McCrae, C. H. Wood, Hy. Waters, J. S. Vosburg, D. Forsythe, C. J. S. Askin, Henry A. Berryman, Wm. A. McCrae, John M. Taylor, Jno. Sheriff, John Degge, Joseph Pritchard, John Foster, R. J. Earl, Geo. W. Thomas, Degge, John, Smith, John Winter, James Baxter, Walter Eberts, John Baxter, Francis Martin, Geo. D. Ross, Stephen J. Davis, Geo. Williams, Chas. Montgomery, James Hart, Myles Miller.

## MARRIED.

On the 5th inst., by Rev. A. Campbell, Mr. Samuel Vincent to Miss

Martha Givens, both of Harwich. On the 25th, by the same, Mr. Jas. Donaldson, to Miss Selena Richardson, both of Orford.

On the 22nd, by the same, Mr. R. B. Winter to Miss M. J. Eberle, both of Orford.

By Rev. N. F. English, on the 20th inst., at the residence of Mr. Joseph Clark, Harwich, Mr. John Cameron to Mrs. Agnes Cameron, both of Harwich.

By the same, on the 22nd inst., at the Wesleyan parsonage, Chatham, Mr. Barabas Brown to Miss Elizabeth Lemmer, both of the Township of Harwich.

## BROWN HAS THE ROAD

West Branch.—Mail Carrier Brown, whose route extended 14 miles into the country, ran over a live skunk the other evening. The animal did business while it lasted. Since then Brown's horses and rig are anything but inviting and patrons along the route give Brown a wide berth.

## STARTLING DREAM

Hanover.—The Local prints the following: "Girls are hereby warned not to marry an editor. Such a being in a near by town came near killing his wife one night recently. A servant awakened by the fracas discovered the ink-slinger choking his better half. It transpired that a delinquent subscriber had paid his subscription and he was grasping his wife by the throat thinking he had the money in his hands."

## SURPRISED NIMROD

Marcellus.—A few days ago while a young hunter was out after ducks he carefully approached Otter lake, which is surrounded by forest. Looking out about the middle of the lake he saw two black objects bobbing up around an old boat and he prepared to take a shot at what he supposed were loons, but just then he heard some one yell: "Don't shoot! I am the postmaster!" It developed that two of our prominent nimrods had been fishing, and while reaching for bait the boat was capsized. They were towed ashore chilled to the bone, but have never peeped about their wet adventure.

## HALLOWE'EN CHARMS

If you take a candle, go alone in a dark room at midnight and eat an apple before a looking glass, the face of your future husband will appear over your shoulder and you can see his reflection in the glass. So they say.

Another way to get a view of your husband or wife-to-be is to go to bed on Hallowe'en with a glass of water, in which a small sliver of wood has been placed, standing on a table by your bedside. In the night you will dream of falling from a bridge in a river, and of being rescued by your future husband, whom you will see as distinctly as though viewed with waking eyes.

Or, wet a shirt sleeve, hang it up to the fire to dry and lie in bed watching it till midnight, when the apparition of your future life partner will come in and turn the sleeve.

An up-to-date Hallowe'en test is to hang up ribbons representing the various colleges. The girls are blindfolded and each picks out a ribbon, the colors of which will indicate the alma mater of the husband-to-be. This trick could be carried out with cards painted in water colors with the various college colors or names.

Children born on Hallowe'en are said to be able to see and converse with fairies, withees and other supernatural beings.

If on this evening you shake hands with a very blond man you will have a proposal—but not necessarily from the blond—before the bells shall have rung in the new year of 1904.

Just at midnight, and you must by no means retire before that magic hour on Oct. 31, listen for the sound of bells from the nearest church steeple—if there are none in the neighborhood you can't do this. Should you hear a Tull and distinct peal, begin on your trousseau; but if there be a dull and muffled sound, possess your soul in patience for another year.

By the way, have you a four-leaved clover? It doesn't matter if it be a dried or pressed one. Put it in your shoe on Saturday morning and wear it until you retire at night. It will bring you good luck through the following year.