

and it would have the advantage of the best travelling season on this continent. In summer people are attracted to these great lakes and our grand St. Lawrence river with its treasures of scenery and interest. From end to end, from Niagara Falls to the battlements of Quebec with their historic memories, they find the St. Lawrence valley a continuous pilgrimage of delight. We are very glad indeed that His Excellency should present these matters for careful consideration and discussion. Perhaps the precise dates can be better determined some time next year, still several months before the exhibition would be opened.

Chancellor Burwash:—I am sure we have all been impressed with the value of the suggestions which have fallen from His Excellency this afternoon. We must concentrate all interests and all means of awakening interest. In that way we shall elicit the sympathy and co-operation of the whole Dominion and make the Exhibition really worthy of the event and of ourselves and our country. I understand the British Association will be here about the 11th of August. The Toronto Dominion Exhibition is expected to open immediately at the close of the meeting of the British Association. There will be no very serious difficulty, I apprehend, in combining our times so as to meet those suggestions.

Rev. Father Ryan:—Your Excellency,—On the part of His Grace the Archbishop of Toronto, I may say that he wished me to come here to express his great appreciation of the interest Your Excellency shows in coming here and taking part in this historic work for our country. He told me to assure the Committee and those present at this meeting that the work now begun and going on under such happy auspices will have his hearty co-operation. He takes a great interest in this historic work. He told me to tell the Committee that whatever he with his people could do, he would like to do, to awaken a great enthusiasm. The idea of the president, Mr. Howland, of making the opening of the Historical Exhibition a centre of Agricultural, Industrial and Scientific interest on Dominion Day, is an important one. The Historical Exhibition should be an Exhibition of history and all its offshoots, grouped about a Canadian centre and giving the event a Canadian stamp. His Grace wished to enter into the complete spirit of the idea and make it a great Canadian success.

Prof. MacCallum:—Your Excellency, the subject of this meeting has been pretty well discussed. I believe all who are present understand it fully and its aims. As President of the Local Committee of the British Association, so far as the duties of that post are consistent with those of the Exhibition I will do what I can to assist, and I believe the British Association, when it comes here, will assist, also, in making this Historical Exhibition a success.

His Excellency:—We have advanced to the point where all that can be said with advantage has been said regarding the general aspects of the question. It seems that that we are pretty well agreed this scheme is a good one and one that should be gone on with heartily. In order that it may be a complete success we must have the practical support of the bodies which have been referred to, more especially the Government of the Province and the Dominion. We should let it be fairly understood this Exhibition is not merely a celebration of one event, the discovery by the Cabots, but the exhibiting of the chief features of Canadian History in the widest sense of the word, throughout the period which has elapsed since the discovery. Also it should be Canadian in a comprehensive sense of the word. The French explorers are to be celebrated not less than any others, perhaps more than any others, because they have been very prominent. The movement will go on hopefully and steadily. The turning point will be when it is ascertained to what extent the Dominion Government and Provincial Government, and especially this Municipality, will not only say "Go on and prosper," but say, "Here is the means to go on and prosper."

Dr. Welch, Professor of Trinity University, seconded by Chancellor Burwash, then moved a resolution, offering the thanks of the Committee and the meeting to His Excellency the Honorary President for his kindness in presiding on this occasion, and also to Her Excellency the Countess of Aberdeen and His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province for their presence. This was carried with applause and the meeting closed by singing "God Save the Queen" with great enthusiasm.

Our Educational System.

THE recent meeting of the Ontario Educational Association has emphasized the popular belief that Ontario possesses about the best system of education in the world.

So orthodox has this belief become that people are willing to be taxed almost to death in order to maintain their faith.

The statistics and comments recently published in the Evening Telegram are calculated to shake one's faith, if not to make us avowed heretics on the subject.

Perhaps the most practical method to adopt in order to form an opinion upon the value of our system is to see what answers can be given to the two questions, What does it cost? and, Is it worth the money?

Firstly, then, what does the system cost? Some twenty years ago the schools of Ontario were placed under the control of the Minister of Education, whose annual reports are easily accessible. Under our system it has been deemed advisable to equip and maintain the following institutions: (1) Kindergartens; (2) Public Schools; (3) High Schools, including Collegiate Institutes; (4) Night Schools; (5) Art Schools; (6) County Model Schools; (7) Normal Schools; (8) Schools of Pedagogy; (9) Teachers' Institutes; (10) Mechanics' Institutes; (11) Industrial Schools; and (12) Separate Schools.

To attempt to discover the cost of all these would involve the labours of an expert, as the reports are voluminous, and no adequate index is provided.

Present purposes, however, will be quite sufficiently served by confining our attention to the second and third above named institutions, namely, Public Schools and High Schools.

During twenty years, commencing with the year 1875, we have expended upon the Public Schools of Ontario, the sum of \$69,173,855, and upon High Schools and Collegiate Institutes the sum of \$9,898,045, making a total of over seventy-nine millions of dollars.

The annual expenditure upon the above two branches of the system naturally increases year by year, so that our Public Schools, which cost us somewhat less than \$3,000,000, in the year 1875, now cost us over \$4,000,000 a year; and our High Schools which cost us \$332,013 in 1875, cost over \$800,000 in the year 1893.

Thus, out of a dozen educational institutions, we find that two of them alone are costing us, at the lowest estimate, over four and a half million dollars a year.

Secondly, is it worth the money?

The principle which underlies our system is two-fold. It adopts the view that all the children in the Province must be educated, and it aims at providing a means whereby the children of the poorest classes may compete on equal terms with the children of the well-to-do for all the places of distinction which art, science, literature, or the learned professions afford.

Few will deny the advisability of providing a means whereby every child in the Province may be taught the three R's, at the public expense if necessary. A child so taught is forever free from the imputation of being illiterate, and may increase his store of knowledge in infinitum.

But why should the public be taxed in order to provide a free education in such subjects as music, temperance, drill, bookkeeping, algebra, geometry, botany, physics, and agriculture?

Costly as our system is, and far in excess of the requirements of a comparatively new country, we might still be justified in maintaining it from a feeling of honest pride, if such a feeling could exist alongside the facts.

The theory of our system is that we should provide every facility for the production of scholars and great men. The fact is that it does not produce them.

Half a century has elapsed since the system was inaugurated by Dr. Ryerson, and every year it ought to have produced a few leading lights in the shape of scholars—men who might be pointed to with pride, and known outside the confines of Ontario.

Has it done so? There may have been, and may be, some few, but who are they, and where are they?

Even if half a dozen notable names could be mentioned, extending over half a century, would that indemnify the burthened taxpayer of to-day for the vast expenditure he is labouring under?