

and gathering in these franchises will be entitled to approval only as long as they are moderate and reasonable. If they become mere stock jobbers, or if they seek to make abnormal profits in these transactions, then they may expect the public to revolt. They must avoid mysterious movements, must avoid any semblance of watering stock, must remember that the consumer has rights as well as the producer and that Canada's general welfare is of more importance than that of a few individuals. They would be wise to take the public into their confidence, to court publicity and investigation, and to conduct their business in the light of day as do the banks and insurance companies.

CANADIANS would do well to take some heed of the controversies over education in Great Britain and the other countries of Europe. The schisms in the church and the differences of opinion among religious teachers are forcing religious CHURCH UNION AND EDUCATION teaching out of the state schools. State education and state instruction in the elements of Christianity can only be joined together where there is unanimity as to the latter. If the churches will not unite upon the first principles of the Christian religion, how can they expect the state to pay attention to religious teaching?

This is the clear lesson of the recent discussion in Great Britain, and Canada should take heed. The union of the various Protestant Churches here would probably result in the "elements of Christianity" being restored to the curriculum of the public schools. To-day, the public schools of Canada, except the Roman Catholic Schools, have little if any religious teachings. Where the teacher is devout and of good judgment, there is more or less indirect instruction, but in the general argument this is negligible. Nor can there be any change in these schools until the Protestant churches come to some definite agreement.

As for the Roman Catholic Church, it should recognise that the great privilege which it now enjoys in this respect rests ultimately upon the efficiency of its schools. There is need of improvement in some respects and, if the Church is not keenly alive to that need, the Roman Catholic Separate Schools will cease to be held in high respect. Fortunately there are signs that the efficiency of these institutions is likely to be increased.

AQUA FORTIS as an ingredient of editorial ink has rather gone out of fashion in this country. "Our esteemed but blackguardly contemporary" has gone the way of hand-set newspapers, and Canadian editors rarely indulge in personalities. The frequent British journalistic visitor, ARGUMENT OR MUD-SLINGING however, is by no means loth to tell the members of the profession that we should look to London for all that is good in journalism and journalistic methods. Canadian editors may take the advice by glancing at, not a London newspaper, but at a London review—and reviews, of course, consider themselves several cuts above the daily press. For calm argument and excellent tone and temper please consult the last issue of the National Review, of London, England. The editor, in his own sacred department, has a few kind words to say of Mr. Haldane, the War Minister. How does he present his compliments? Thus: "Mr. Haldane is a gigantic gas-bag!" James Bryce is alluded to—the James Bryce who holds Britain's most important foreign diplomatic post. What of James Bryce has our editor to say? Merely that "Mr. Bryce is a meticulous pedant." Winston Churchill, too, is among those present at the distribution of editorial brickbats. He "has no principles and no enthusiasm except egoism."

Anybody could write such sophomoric trash, and nobody would think of writing it for any newspaper that

occupies a respectable place in Canada. The stuff that seems to be considered smart by the able editor of the National Review would have been admired by Mr. Jefferson Brick and Col. Hannibal Chollop. Luckily, the Jefferson Bricks and the Hannibal Chollops are as dead as Moses, and if the American yellow press be conducted by their successors, it must not be forgotten that the yellow press does not put itself in the same exalted class as the National Review. Invective is not argument: editorial mud does not convince anybody. Of Haldane, Canadians know little. Bryce they admire. Churchill, the poseur, the histrionic little cock-fighter, is disliked by many who are forced to see the bad manners which he thrusts before the world. But, valuable as the three of them may be, it is hard to understand how they can be injured by the National's Billingsgate. In British countries the press is free. The National Monthly shows that it is free to be absurd if it so elects.

PREMIER WHITNEY is determined to keep up the salaries of the rural school teacher. His Act of last session met with some opposition and created a bit of dissatisfaction. He was not dismayed. He has ascertained where the shoe pinched and has brought in amendments KEEPING UP THE SALARY to relieve the pressure. The

higher salary came mainly out of the farmers' pockets and as usual the farmer objected. Mr. Whitney has met this by a grant of 40 per cent. on the excess of all salaries above \$300 and up to \$600. In addition each section will get an unconditional grant of \$15 and a contribution towards equipment and accommodation.

Under this new arrangement, the grants to rural schools, which were increased last year from \$118,000 to \$178,000, will now be increased to \$380,000. This covers 5,300 rural schools. It is a generous grant and only a province with expanding revenues could make it so liberal.

There are other sections of Canada where the salaries are too low. The demand for good men and bright women in the business world has narrowed the supply of pedagogues. There is only one way out, and Mr. Whitney has shown what it is. Each province must go down into its pocket and support the rural school generously. Such a course is both necessary and vital.

WHATEVER may be the population and plutocracy of Pittsburg, the readers of Canadian newspapers are getting fairly tired of the notoriety achieved by citizens of that smoky town. Mr. Andrew Carnegie's loquacity was long ago THE PITTSBURG NUISANCE recognised as somewhat tedious; But for the sake of his liberality in libraries, his views on orthography and every other subject are treated with a deference extending over many columns. Like every other bore, he means well and would be quite enjoyable if he would only allow his money to do the talking. Then the alarming and envy-provoking news is telegraphed that there are one hundred millionaires in Pittsburg and the paragraph fairly bristles with dollars and diamond studs.

But worst of all is the Thaw trial, with its vulgar parade of the prisoner's women relatives confronting the reader of Canadian newspapers. The whole affair is absolutely sordid and the world would be well rid of most of those concerned. Why professedly-respectable journals should publish hideous "cuts" and maudlin sentimentalities about the pallid looks and chiffon veils of the women in the case is a mystery to the sane reader. There is no necessity for reading the affair and we may turn to our own political squabbles and civic entanglements by way of healthy relief. But it is deplorable to see publications that usually stand for what is decent, pandering to the lowest element of their constituency by printing lavish accounts of the trial of a degenerate.