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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, Nov. 14th, 1874.

TEACHERS' SALARIES.

At the last Convention of the Protestant Provincial Teachers, the question of remuneration naturally came up for debate. And, quite as naturally, there was a pretty general complaint about the low average of salaries. The subject merits consideration from the public at large, in more senses than one. It implies an act of justice to the teachers themselves, as a class. It affects also the cause of education, in which every Canadian is or ought to be interested. There is no question, whatever, that, in this Province more especially, teachers are not properly rewarded for their important services. The years they spend in preparing themselves for their vocation entail an expenditure which should be, but never is, counted in their salaries. Herein they are placed in an unjust inferiority, as compared with physicians, lawyers and notaries. Members of these professions charge high fees, precisely because their services are the fruit of years of toil and expense. But the case of teachers is still farther aggravated. They are paid barely for maintenance. It is next to impossible for them to save money, to lay by a scant store against the day of shadow and sorrow. At the end of a decade, they are no farther advanced than they were at its inception.

We refer, of course, to country teachers who conduct the bulk of elementary schools. The figures are there to substantiate our assertion. Female teachers, of whom the number is very great in the Province of Quebec, receive on an average 20L. to 45L., including free rent. 30L. are regarded as a good salary for the most of them. A young woman cannot live all alone in a large school house. She must have, and she generally has, her aged parents residing with her. How the three can manage to maintain themselves on ten dollars a month is a mystery to us, and can only be explained on the suggestion of that simple heroism and modest self-sacrifice of which women alone seem to have the secret. Breathing a mephitic atmosphere for ten hours every day; exer-

cising her usually weak lungs, from nine in the morning, till five on the afternoon, the lady teacher requires certain delicacies of food, to say nothing of occasional medicinal helps, all of which cost money. Besides, she is obliged to dress with more care than if she kept the round of household duties, unseen to the world. No wonder that when she can escape from the bondage, she does so with the eagerness of the bird who has long beaten his wings against the cage bars.

The case of male teachers is hardly brighter. Their salaries range from 60L. to 100L. The latter figure is rarely vouchsafed except to graduates of the Normal Schools. 125L. to 150L. are exceptional rates. No matter how devoted a student a man may be, no matter how much he appreciates and loves the noble mission of education, there comes a time when his spirit must rebel against these hard restrictions. The hey-day of youth passes; the enthusiasm of inexperience flickers out; the future must be provided for; wife and children have to be supported. It need, therefore, be no matter of surprise that the teacher abandons the school room for the counting house or for some other profitable business. That we are not doing this worthy class of men justice is evidenced from a comparison of the remuneration awarded them in the older countries where the cost of living is much more reduced. The average salaries of certified masters of elementary schools in England and Wales is \$517 a year, and more than one-half are provided with a house or live rent free. In Scotland, the average pay is \$551, and two-thirds live rent free.

Governments are not responsible for this anomalous state of things. It is the people who are to blame. They have not sufficient appreciation of the benefits of education, and, by consequence, do not entertain a sufficiently high estimate of the dignity, difficulty, and drudgery of the teacher's vocation. It will take time to alter this unfortunate disposition and teachers themselves must have a hand in it by zealously instructing the young generations under their charge.

CANADIAN ARCHIVES.

We have often had occasion to say it—Canada is the most historical portion of the American continent. Its annals teem with tragic episodes, and the influence of its great men, both in church and state, extended through nearly every portion of the American continent. The story of the Great West, from Michilimackinack to Walla Walla; that of the West, from the Falls of St. Anthony to St. Louis; that of the South, from Natchitoches to Mobile, cannot be written without constant recurrence to those records. When BANCROFT wrote his history of the United States, he had to consult them. When GAYARRE penned his history of Louisiana, he largely consulted them. When GILMERY SHEA composed his history of missions among the Indian tribes, he drew almost all his materials therefrom. When SPARKS compiled his interesting monographs of colonial and Revolutionary worthies, he laid them under abundant contribution. And when PARKMAN looked about him for subjects to occupy his graphic pen, he found none more interesting than the great figures of our ancient days. While we rejoice that he has done justice to them, we cannot but regret that Canadians should have left the filial task in the hands of a stranger.

Those old archives of ours are abundant and have been singularly well preserved. The acts of the French Governors were regularly dispatched to the proper authorities at Paris and by them deposited in the department *de la Marine*. There they are to this day, having escaped many a revolution. The acts of the Missionaries, which are invaluable for ethnological and geographical details, were equally transcribed in full. The Superior of the Jesuits, at Quebec, kept a diary of everything which occurred in his vast jurisdiction.

Some of these records have unfortunately been lost, but many more survive. After the conquest, the official acts of the British Governors were transcribed and the bulk of them may be seen to this day in the different departments at London. Many precious manuscripts, chiefly of local interest, but of the highest importance in a general collation, are to be found at Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, and Halifax. But these have not been guarded as jealously as they should have been. They should all be transported to Ottawa and there kept in water- and fire-proof compartments.

We are pleased to know that some attempt has been made towards putting these precious papers into proper shape for general use. But much more remains to be done. The archives department at Ottawa should be thoroughly organized, and manned by men of the highest competence. All the manuscripts to be found in the country should be classified and catalogued. Next, all the papers relating to Canada, however remotely, which are to be found in Europe, should be copied for filing with us. Mr. BRYMNER, of the department of Agriculture and Statistics, in his two visits to London, has shown what historical treasures pertaining to Canada lie *perdu* there. The abbé VERRAULT, of the Jacques Cartier Normal School, we believe at his own expense, has made similar discoveries in Paris. Such gentlemen, and other equally skilled, should be entrusted with the compilation of these papers and with the periodical publication of the most important of them. Nothing, in our opinion, would conduce more to the spreading of a taste for Canadian history with the rising generation and nothing would be more apt to broaden and exalt a spirit of patriotism and nationality. From them, it would also be easy to construct authentic and properly coloured school histories, which, as we stated some weeks ago, are great desiderata at present.

THE TRANSMISSION OF NEWS.

Telegraphing is an expeditious mode of transmitting news, but it is expensive and not unattended with trouble. Every night editor on a daily journal has experienced the trouble and delay of deciphering the rapid chirography of the writers on manifold paper. To obviate both the expense and trouble of telegraphy, at least in some measure, the use of carrier pigeons for the press is on the increase, and the breed is rapidly improving. By careful selection, powers have been developed which a few years ago would have been thought impossible. They can be specially trained to fly over 500 miles, and it is no uncommon thing for despatches to be brought to London from Paris, Lisbon, or Brussels. *Land and Water* records a case of interest. An ocean homing bird, of great docility, intelligence, and spirit, has been found in Iceland which flies at the meteor-like speed of 150 miles an hour. A pair of these birds whose present home is in Kent, within ten miles of London, recently carried despatches from Paris to their home in one hour and a quarter. Press pigeons carried on the despatches to London, and the whole journey of the despatches from Paris to London occupied only one hour and a half. The press pigeons now commonly used are not the ordinary carrier pigeons, but are bred from prize birds selected from the best lofts of Antwerp, Brussels, and Liege. The use of these pigeons is due to the French who used them during the siege of Paris and, later, at the trial of Marshal Bazaine.

DEMOCRATIC TRIUMPH.

We have now sufficiently full returns of the late elections in the United States to be able to pronounce judgment thereupon, and form an accurate estimate of the political situation which must necessarily result therefrom. The Democratic majorities in Indiana and Ohio, during the month of October, were a sure indication

that the current of public opinion was changing, and the old campaigners of the East foretold that the rest of the country would follow in the same current. But nobody ever imagined that the triumph of one party would be so complete, and the discomfiture of the other so sudden and utter. At the last session of Congress, the House of Representatives stood: 195 Republicans, 92 Democrats and Liberals, and a few contested seats vacant. In other words, the Republican majority was over one hundred. Nothing at that time, that is about four months ago, presaged the change that was about to occur. On the contrary, the Republicans seemed confident of a further lease of power. They carried everything with a high hand. Neither the Democrats nor the Liberals could induce them to alter their mode of headlong legislation. The Forty-Fourth Congress has not yet met—it will be organized only on the 4th March 1875—and yet the Republicans are ousted and the Democrats hold the field with a majority of nearly fifty.

The following table indicating the change may be useful for reference, as we are more interested than is generally imagined in the political concerns of our neighbours.

	Forty-fourth Congress.		Forty-third Congress.	
	Rep.	Dem.	Rep.	Dem.
Alabama.....	2	6	5	3
Arkansas.....	1	3	3	2
Delaware.....	1	1	1	1
Florida.....	2	2	2	2
Georgia.....	9	9	2	7
Illinois.....	10	9	14	5
Indiana.....	5	8	10	3
Iowa.....	8	1	9	1
Kansas.....	2	1	3	1
Kentucky.....	10	10	10	10
Louisiana.....	3	3	6	6
Maine.....	5	5	5	5
Maryland.....	1	5	2	4
Massachusetts.....	6	5	11	11
Michigan.....	6	3	9	9
Minnesota.....	3	3	3	3
Missouri.....	2	11	4	9
Nebraska.....	1	1	1	1
Nevada.....	1	1	1	1
New Jersey.....	5	2	6	1
New York.....	16	17	24	9
North Carolina.....	1	7	4	5
Ohio.....	7	13	13	7
Oregon.....	1	1	1	1
Pennsylvania.....	13	14	22	5
Rhode Island.....	2	2	2	2
South Carolina.....	4	1	5	1
Tennessee.....	2	8	7	3
Texas.....	6	6	6	6
Vermont.....	3	3	3	3
Virginia.....	3	6	4	5
West Virginia.....	3	3	2	1
Wisconsin.....	6	2	6	2
Thirty-three States..	119	156	187	88

There are four states remaining which hold their elections only next spring, but from what is known of their usual political complexion, it may be forecast that the result among them will be as follows—

	Rep.	Dem.
California.....	3	1
Connecticut.....	3	1
Mississippi.....	5	1
New Hampshire.....	2	1
.....	13	4

There can be no question whatever that the revolution which has taken place in the United States is freighted with important results. It puts a quietus on the Third Term agitation for one thing. It will change the policy of the North towards the South, for another. What effect it will have on the vexed question of contraction or inflation is still undetermined. The Democratic party itself is divided on that issue, New York and the East advocating a return to specie payments, while Ohio, Indiana and a large proportion of the West hold fast, out of sheer necessity, to the inflation of greenbacks.

The majority of the Democrats in the House of Representatives gives them the choice of a speaker and a vast amount of congressional patronage. After the 4th March 1875, the government of the country is practically in their hands, although the President is opposed to them, and the Senate, by a singular anomaly, finds itself slightly Republican until 1877. In the autumn of 1876, the Presidential election takes place, and if during the sixteen or eighteen intervening months, the Democrats hold their favour with the public, there appears no doubt they will elect the next occupant of the White House. The Republicans have been in power since 1861, and they are being borne down, among other things, by the static law of longevity.