

# The CANADIAN COURIER

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**D**R. F. W. MERCHANT, of the Department of Education for Ontario, is a very busy man just now. He is loaded with responsibility present and prospective. The duties which he has to perform have even political significance. For some time he was chief inspector of public and separate schools in the Province of Ontario. He was also inspector of Normal schools. The even tenor of his way was disturbed when the question was raised as to whether the bi-lingual schools were properly conducted or whether they were merely French schools in disguise. The Minister of Education sent Dr. Merchant to investigate. He has been at this piece of work for some time. Last spring he investigated the bi-lingual schools in Essex County. Now he is pursuing his inquiry in Eastern Canada along the Quebec boundary. His report to the Government will be received with almost breathless interest by certain sections of the community. There seems to be little doubt that in the near future Ontario will be keenly discussing the question as to whether the bi-lingual schools should be mainly French or mainly English.

But Dr. Merchant has also another large task in prospect. As soon as he finishes with his present duty he is to be sent to Europe to study technical and industrial training. No educationist in Canada is of real importance until he has been sent abroad to study something. Dr. Merchant was recently promoted from the position of Chief Inspector of Public Schools to be Director of Industrial and Technical Education, a position of recent creation. Indeed Dr. Merchant is the first man to wear the title. It will be his duty to work out the provisions of the Act passed during the last session of the Legislature, entitled, "The Industrial Education Act." This Act provides for the establishment of technical schools under the direction of special local committees. No ordinary school board or board of education is to be allowed to control these special technical schools in the various towns and cities of Ontario. Each local committee will consist of twelve persons, six from the Public School Board, three who are employed in a manufacturing industry, and three who are employers of labour. Each will be known as the "Advisory Industrial Committee." The object of this machinery is to make the technical school in Brantford suit the industries of Brantford, that in Stratford to suit Stratford, those in Toronto to meet the particular needs of Toronto, and so on. The courses of study will be prescribed by local, not provincial, authority. Dr. Merchant devoted special attention to mathematics and science in the earlier years of his career, and it is reasonable to assume that he will show the same skill and progressiveness in his dealing with technical education. The success of his work will mean much for the industrial future of the Province of Ontario.

## A Rising Educationist.

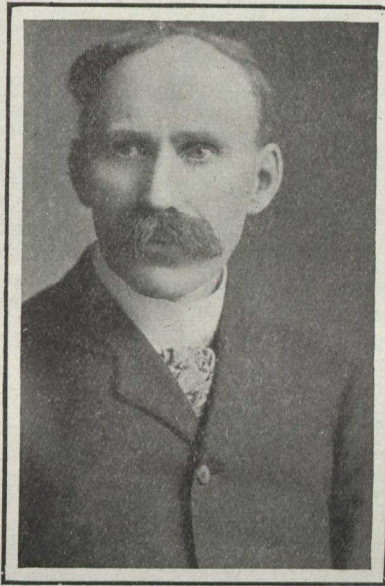
**D**R. MERCHANT'S successor as Chief Inspector of Public Schools in Ontario is Mr. R. H. Cowley. Born in Carleton County, he attended both Ottawa and Queen's universities, specializing in literature, history and natural science. He went back to his own county to teach and soon earned an appointment on the model school staff of the Ottawa Normal. Later he was science master in the Collegiate, and

finally inspector for the county. This is the typical routine for a successful pedagogue.

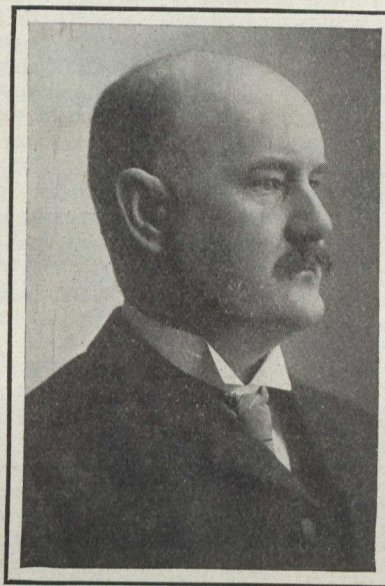
One of Mr. Cowley's enthusiasms has been "continuation schools," the school which fills up the space between an ordinary public school and an ordinary high school. He introduced them into Carleton county and about five years ago became inspector of continuation schools for the province. When Dr. Merchant was promoted, Mr. Cowley was naturally chosen as his successor, and he is likely to continue his predecessor's good work—perhaps improve upon it.

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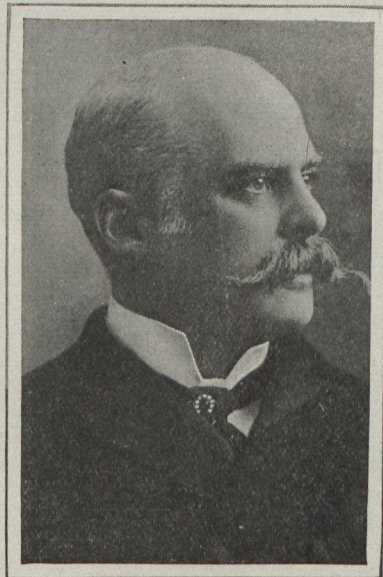
## MEN OF TO-DAY



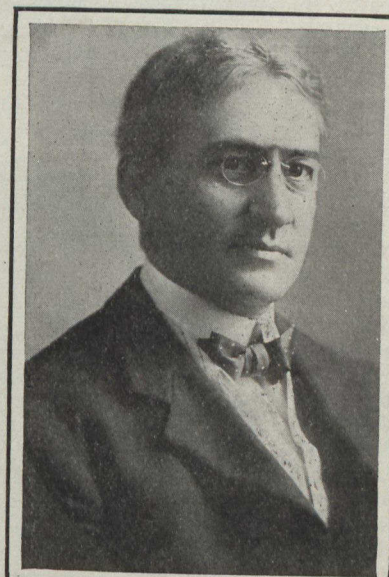
DR. F. W. MERCHANT  
Director Technical Education for Ontario



MR. R. H. COWLEY  
Chief Inspector Public Schools, Ontario



DR. J. J. GUERIN  
Recently honoured by His Holiness



MR. L. J. GABOURY  
Assistant Postmaster at Montreal

## A Bi-Lingual Post-Office.

**M**ONTREAL is the greatest bi-lingual post-office in America, and its assistant-postmaster is a bi-linguist. Mr. L. J. Gaboury was born at St. Cesaire, in the county of Rouville. His father, a notary, educated him for the law, after he had taken his B.A. from Marieville Seminary. Two years of law were enough for him, and he switched to business and thence into the civil service. His first important post was superintendent of the D. L. O.—Dead Letter Office—of the Montreal Division, and this post requires a live man always. In 1906 he received the appointment as assistant-postmaster. Because of the illness of the late Postmaster, he has been in almost entire charge of this important office, the largest and most difficult in Canada. He has shown great zeal in the discharge of his duties and has won the good opinion of his superior officers.

Not long ago, there was a great discussion in New York as to whether Mr. Morgan, the assistant-postmaster, should be made postmaster, and the political pot fairly boiled over. However, the cause of good government won and Mr. Morgan received the appointment. Just now in Montreal there is a similar struggle. Shall Mr. Gaboury receive a natural and well-earned promotion, or shall a politician who knows nothing about post-office work be put into this important post, as was done in Toronto and other places? This is a question of considerable importance to the country as a whole. It is interesting to notice that the Board of Trade, other commercial bodies, and the daily press are all united in declaring that the best interests of the public would be served by the promotion of Mr. Gaboury.

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## Mayor Guerin Decorated.

**D**R. J. J. GUERIN, Mayor of Montreal, who was notified recently by Archbishop Bruchesi, that he had received from the Pope the title of Knight Commander of the Pontifical Order of St. Gregory the Great, has had a busy career. What his fellow-citizens think of him was shown by the fact that in February of last year he was elected Mayor of Montreal by nearly ten thousand majority. He was the candidate heading the slate brought out by the Citizens' Committee to fight graft. Montreal, previous to the taking of that action, had been robbed of more than a million dollars in a year.

Dr. Guerin was born in Montreal on July 4, 1856, and received his education there. Both his parents were Irish. He was elected three times to the Quebec Legislative Assembly and was a member of the Marchand Administration without portfolio. He has been president of the St. Patrick's Society, the Shamrock Lacrosse Club, and many other organizations. He was at the Coronation and had a seat in Westminster Abbey.