

of the Province into the hands of mere children. We repeat it. A very large proportion of the schools of the country, the very schools in which, perhaps, nine-tenths of the children receive all their school education, are presided over by those who are children in age, children in their lack of solid educational qualifications, children in immaturity of character and lack of genuine culture. A writer who signs himself "Experience" sets this matter in a strong light in the *Educational Journal* of the 15th inst. Referring to the fact that the School Law permits boys and girls to become certificated teachers at eighteen years of age, and to the further well-known fact that large numbers annually avail themselves of this permission, and, after a few weeks' sojourn at one of the numerous County Model Schools, go forth with the passport to the profession (?) in their hands, to scour the country in search of a situation, the writer proceeds to detail some of the results. He states as facts within his own personal knowledge that in several instances these boys and girls in search of a situation have approached the trustees of schools held by experienced teachers, and have offered their services for the ensuing year for fifty dollars less, or for seventy-five dollars less, than the present salary; that this is being done before any vacancy has occurred, and with the manifest design to create such a vacancy; that in reply to certain advertisements known to the writer, would-be teachers of this stamp have ended their applications with these eloquent words: "I will take twenty-five dollars less than the lowest tender;" that in a specific case, a year ago, a capable teacher who had been receiving the magnificent salary of \$500 per year, was, through competitive offers of the kind indicated, compelled to accept \$425, or lose his situation, and that this year he has been displaced by one who is to receive \$325! Our readers have only to bear in mind that in 1892 no less than 1,225 new teachers were sent forth from the model schools to find places in an occupation which employs in all not more, probably, than seven or eight thousand persons, and that no doubt about the same number will go forth this year and next year and so on. Everyone can draw his own conclusions—first, as to the probability that really able and competent teachers will remain in the work; second, as to the competency of the boys and girls who are constantly taking the places of such teachers only to be driven out themselves in a few years, when their services are becoming valuable, by other fledglings; third, as to whether a system which leads to or admits of such results is a thing to be proud of; and, fourth, what is to be expected as the result of such a system upon the future citizenship of the country.

The list of glaring deficiencies in our school system, tried by the test of its efficiency as a method for producing men and women of a high type in point of intelli-

gence and moral thoughtfulness, could easily be enlarged. But most other defects are in one way or another the outgrowth of those which we have indicated. Whatever difficulties there may be in the way of remedying some of these, can any reader conceive of any valid reason why young men and women should be permitted to qualify for the very responsible position of teachers and trainers of our future citizens, before they have reached the age of at least twenty-one years

MONTREAL LETTER.

The citizen was reminded of the near approach of winter when on last Monday there fell on his light overcoat a few feathery flakes of snow. They were tiny, innocent looking flakes, nevertheless they sent a shiver through the frame of the individual who had yet to fill his coal bin and negotiate with his tailor for a heavy melton. They brought before his dazed eyes visions of ash barrels, snow shovels and frozen water pipes and he wondered if life were really worth living when it had to be put in north of the forty-fifth parallel of latitude.

The police investigation drags along slowly. One session was held last week at which one witness was examined and a great deal of talk indulged in between the members of the committee and the various counsel as to the lines upon which the enquiry was to be conducted. The witness told a damaging story and stuck right to it though severely cross-examined. The chairman drew up a report which he said would be submitted to the Council, setting forth the opinion of the city attorney and asking that further powers be conferred that the investigation may be made general. Thus sessions are held and time passes with little result.

A gloom was suddenly cast over the commercial community of Montreal last Friday by the death, by his own hand, of Mr. W. R. Elmenhorst, president of the St. Lawrence Sugar Refinery and a gentleman well known and highly esteemed. For a considerable time past the unfortunate gentleman suffered much from nervous prostration which undoubtedly affected his reason. Mr. Elmenhorst was about sixty years of age and had spent the last 15 years of his lifetime in this city.

There are fifteen schools in this city under the control of the Protestant Board of School Commissioners with a total attendance of 6,990 scholars. The teachers number 200, making the average of 35 scholars per teacher. One hundred and forty Roman Catholics and four hundred and eight Jews are in attendance at the schools. Those receiving free education number 1,444; two pay half fees; 29 have government scholarships and 91 commissioner's scholarships. Some of the schools are very crowded and in order to reduce the classes to the desired size sixty additional class-rooms would be required and an equal number of teachers. There are six night schools now in full swing.

A special train arrived at the Bonaventure station from New York last Tuesday with about two hundred Chinese bound for China. Transferring to the Windsor station they boarded another special and settled themselves down for the long overland journey to

the Pacific Coast. The Chinese were of all types and sizes; some dressed in costume of the land of their birth, others in the latest American garments, not even omitting kid gloves. All carried umbrellas and the amount of hand baggage was extraordinarily large. The baggage car was filled with trunks and boxes, attesting to the fact that in the new land they had prospered. There was a certain air of independence about the bearing of the Celestials, the result of their close acquaintance with civilization, nevertheless they submitted without a murmur to a treatment that would have been vigorously resented by the meanest of the Caucasian race. The conductor took down a minute description of each Chinaman, and examined his mouth to see if there was any peculiarity in the teeth by which he could afterwards be identified. Moles, scars and other distinguishing spots were noted. When the Chinaman travels in this country he is treated by the Customs as so much baggage and he is looked upon by everyone with suspicion. These Chinamen were not going to take part in the war, but simply going to spend the Chinese New Year at home and when the festivities are over return to New York and resume their various occupations.

Mgr. Satolli, the Papal ablegate in Washington, arrived in Montreal rather unexpectedly last Monday. His visit caused quite a stir in clerical circles, but a number of priests outside of the city were disappointed from the fact that they were not able to be present to pay their respects to the high church dignitary, the time of the visit having been arranged for Thursday following. The prelate was officially received by Archbishop Fabre and the Chapter of Canons in the Archbishop's palace. Mgr. Satolli was escorted to the apartments reserved for him, and shortly afterwards appeared in his clerical robes ready to say mass. He was escorted to the new Cathedral where he officiated at the main altar, Abbe Pepi, the ablegate's secretary, at the same time officiating at one of the side altars. After the service he appeared in the Archbishop's parlor in civilian clothes. He is a man of medium height, and what strikes one most in his appearance is a keen, sharp eye, together with a mild and attractive countenance. The prelate is an Italian, speaks English fairly well, but French very little. He denied that he came here to settle misunderstandings between Cardinal Taschereau, the civil authorities and the clergy, as had been stated by the newspapers in Washington. His visit was simply one of courtesy to meet old friends and acquaintances. He would not say anything regarding the Manitoba School question; he knew nothing about it, and had nothing to do with it. He did not give out the object of his visit, and of course the public is doing a great deal of guessing. Some think that he cannot fail to report to Rome what he hears in regard to the feeling of the Catholics of this Province on the Manitoba School question. Others believe that the prelate's visit is concerning the appointment of a successor to Archbishop Taché, although this is hardly probable. Then, another guess is that the visit to Canada is to ascertain the exact state of the health of Cardinal Taschereau, with a view to having a successor appointed at once, if necessary. One day General Booth, the following, Mgr. Satolli; who will be next?

A. J. F.

Beggars fear no rebellion.