

A TEACHER'S REASONS

For Believing That the Public School System of N. B.,

Instead of Advancing It, in Reality, Degrading a Teachers' Union Needed.

"It appears to me that my boy isn't getting near as good an education as his brother Jack got," was the remark made to the writer a few days ago by a farmer whose son was attending the district school, where an excellent teacher, holding a school class license, presided. The words put the finishing touch to an opinion which has been forming in my mind for some time, namely, that the public school system of New Brunswick, instead of advancing, is in reality, degenerating.

The proof of what I am saying lies on the surface of things. Look at the prescribed course of instruction on the register of ten years ago. Then look at the same page of the register of today. What will you find? Simply this: Ten years ago, a pupil who had completed the prescribed course of school course began the world with a fair practical education. He could read and write; he was a fair speller, and a good practical arithmetician. He had also a fair general knowledge of history and geography. More than this, he could keep a set of books, by single entry, legibly and correctly, and he could write an ordinary social or business letter, and make few gross mistakes, either in spelling or composition.

Could a pupil of the same standing today do this? He could not begin to do it. The boy who leaves the common school of today has an smattering of this, that, and the next thing, a boy entering Grade V. of the graded course knows the geography of his parish and county, and he could have learned that outside of school as soon as he needed it. He knows that plants grow from seeds, and he knew that before he was ever inside a school house, and that he knows multiplication and addition tables, and that is about all he does know. His time has been wasted in acquiring things which he will never use, and which do not serve, if taught in the way recommended at the Normal School, even to train his mind. A pupil leaving the common school has a smattering of this, that and the next thing, he is called a vocation hand, although it invariably slants, either forward or backward. I never yet saw the man, woman or child who could write a truly vertical hand with any speed. His British history is weak, his Canadian worse. Grammar with him is a nonentity. As a general thing, he could not do the simplest question in compound interest without three gross mistakes.

We have said that the common school graduate is weak in history. Why, do you ask? Because the board of education is doing what can only be compared to the action of a man who should require his servant to split a stick of cordwood, and should give him a jack-knife to do it with, in place of an axe. This text book is British history as at present, nothing in Canadian history it is worse than nothing. It is bad enough to have no text book, and to be compelled to make one. But it is infinitely more to be given one which is no good, and to be compelled to use it. When we have none we can make one, which is at least to our satisfaction, hard work every night to prepare for the next day's work.

Someone, who it was I have forgotten, said at Carleton County Institute: "If teachers would prepare more carefully for their work, we would hear less of inefficient and worthless texts." Maybe he was right. But we would like to ask that gentleman one question: Suppose he were a lumberman and were hired to cut so many cords a day; his tools are to be supplied him; he goes out to work, and finds an axe with an iron handle ten feet long, and a head like the blade of a table-knife. He protests and here is the answer he gets: "Well, if you had prepared for your work more carefully, you would have had that handle taken out and a light ash one put in; you would have had that knife-blade taken off and a double-bladed axe-head put in its place." How long would the lumberman have been in declaring that his employers were not acting up to their bargain?

Are not the teachers of New Brunswick treated in the same way? We engage to teach, and we are given tools, text-books. They are prescribed, and it is up to us to do our best with them. Well, the tools are worthless, and like the lumberman, we protest, and forthwith the answer comes: "Well, it's your own fault; if you had prepared better for your work, you wouldn't have so much difficulty. Why don't you prepare? and so the poor teacher, over-burdened already from causes which are unavoidable, attempts to do the impossible, to remove the handle and the blade, and still keep the axe. Oh, yes, you must keep the same axe."

Now we would not be understood as wishing to say that the school books ought not to be prescribed. Certainly they ought to be prescribed, or there would be confusion, worse confounded. But, in the name of all that is fair and just, why cannot there be chosen texts that help, instead of hinder the teacher? They are to be had, and surely it is as easy to prescribe one book as another.

MR. MOWAT

Gives Some Salmon Scores on the Restigouche 1901.

(Campbellton Events.)

Having come down from the Kedgwick a short time since, perhaps a few of the scores would be interesting to our friend at the western end of the city, who was shouting so in the spring that the anglers and governments nets were running the rivers. Should this gentleman by accident catch a salmon, it furnishes a wonderful theme for the next six months. Having missed the chance this year, the subject will have to be changed.

B. T. King, lessee of the Kedgwick River, took 15 salmon and hooked and netted 28 in 11 days' fishing in June. He only had one boatman from Madawaska, and the party did not understand the famous Petapedia Pool.

Travelling down river, the next party consisted of W. K. Vanderbill, Dr. S. Webb, Messrs. Brooks and Panocest, and Messrs. Rogers and Thompson, and lastly, the Rogers boys. All these parties fished the Mowat and Roger waters in turn, and took over 200 salmon during the season. The R. S. Club waters come next. I do not know their score. I fear it is better than last year. At Mr. Mowat's great season, and well up to '98, which gave 1,500 salmon, being the best in the history of the country. I heard of these rods taking 19 salmon in one day, about 30th July, at the famous Petapedia Pool.

Two gentlemen were up to Devil's Half Acre late in August, and took 12 or 15 salmon in a few days, excellent proof of the large bodies of fish there must be in the pools, as not more than one salmon in fifty will rise to a fly so late in the season, when the river is so low and temperature of the water so high. The Camp Harmony party at the mouth of the Upsalquich landed 130 salmon. The lessees of the Upsalquich River actually captured over 100 salmon. These are only a few of the many scores among the large number of anglers who visit the various rivers, and plenty, Mr. Editor, to show there was no necessity for the early croaking, which is no unusual thing.

They give miles up that river to the older grounds, the natural haunts of the salmon and moose. They declare the pools are plumb full, thousands upon thousands of salmon.

The captured has shown up much better than for years, and the guardians say there are a great many breeding fish in the Petapedia.

I do not possess so much information as to the net fishery. It is said the presses are full. I heard a story of one fisherman down the bay who was complaining and talked of going west. What said the freemason, he was full, but he was full of the bay. For his catch of fish for three weeks only \$1,780. Another of the largest net fishermen below Dalhousie told me he caught his first fish on the 16th of May and his last on the 13th of August; had a continuous catch, something unusual.

A large catch of Restigouche fish is now made outside the Bay in the Gulf, where a few years ago there were no fish at all. The grand old river has stood the test of anglers and netters for the last 25 years, and here are a few more of the records compiled from the complete list of the fishery for the years 1881 and 1891 and again shows how the wind blows. He says the salmon "fishing on most of the New Brunswick rivers was during the past season much below average of former years," said the fisherman, "being termed 'an off year, alike puzzling to both fishermen and anglers. The following memorandum furnished me by the secretary of the Restigouche Salmon Club shows the number and average weight of salmon and grilse killed by them during the last 11 years:

Table with columns: Year, No. of Salmon, Average Weight, Total Weight. Data for years 1890-1900.

What do we find since '91, Mr. Editor? I find that the number and weight of salmon and grilse taken for each year, but '92 was good, and '94 was such a big year, and so many fish slaughtered we find the Restigouche Club adopting a regulation in '93 providing that any member from killing more than 3 salmon in one day. Fancy 3 salmon in one day. Then in '95 I have already stated 1,300 salmon was score of the club; average these at 20 lbs. and we have 26,000 lbs. of salmon, double the catch of the best year previous to '91; '98 was a grand year, 1900, last year, was fine, and had the weather and temperature of the river been favorable, no doubt 1901 would have equalled and perhaps surpassed the catch of '98.

Is it not marvellous that with all the increased angling and netting the river is not only holding its own, but shows unmistakable evidence of the fish increasing?

How about angling prosperity? Is it decreasing? One man last year refused \$30,000 for his fishing rights. A few years ago he could not get the half of it.

The sale of government waters in March next will tell the tale and I am confident to the discomfort of some of the present lessees. Why some of the small market netters are receiving \$500 to \$1000 per year from the riparian association, not to fish their nets. It is a fact, as true, Mr. Editor, and they are facts, is there any cause for the shouting on the part of those who give no study to the question. Here is what a writer in the St. John Sun says: "In 1888 'salmon was doomed, that the anglers would kill them all out, and that placid water was again the gift of the Almighty. Still the salmon comes and continues as plenty as ever notwithstanding the yearly drain of 1,000,000 lbs. taken in the

THE GLOBE TROTTER.

Carl Creelman, Tells the Sun of His Two Year's Journey.

The Worst Roads He Struck Were in Canada, Australia and Egypt.

(From Monday's Daily Sun.) "Carl M. Creelman, the Toronto cyclist, who has made a tour of the world on a wheel in a little over two years, will leave the city this morning for home. He will reach Moncton this evening, Amherst Tuesday night, and expects to ride into his native town about seven o'clock Wednesday evening.

In a conversation last evening, Mr. Creelman said that he was glad that he started on his trip, and never during the time he was away wished himself home. "However," he remarked, "I would not do it all over again for a good deal."

One of the most interesting memories of his journey is a little book of about 170 pages, which bears the seals of many cities, and on whose pages are the certificates in thirteen countries of his visits to different countries and in thirteen different countries. "The worst roads that I hit," said Mr. Creelman, were in Canada, Australia and Egypt, and altogether I walked over 1,500 miles, wheeling the bicycle. In Canada, the worst roads were those leading over the Rockies, and from the Crow's Nest Pass; and I walked steadily for about a month. I went to Australia on the ship Ivy, making my passage, and in Queensland, heavy rains made the black clay paths too heavy and sticky to drive a wheel over. Peculiar three-pointed thorns made things bad for the tires in Queensland, too, and often I had as many as six or seven punctures in a day. In India the roads were splendid, and wheeling was a pleasure, but when I got into Egypt I had a walk of about 300 miles. In fact the only riding I did was along the banks of the Suez Canal, a few yards at a time. In Europe, of course, the roads were good, but I met with weather and heavy head winds in France, that made wheeling very tiresome.

"So far as punctures and like troubles to my machine were concerned, Queensland was the worst place, although the hot winds in Egypt played havoc with the patches I had put on the tires. Often I would no sooner get on an old patch that the heat had loosened than another one would break away.

"I met with a good many difficulties, but was in very few dangerous positions. Once I was chased by a herd of wild cattle in America and another time was held up by a gang of tramps. In but two cases did I get in trouble with the authorities; once in Australia, for riding along the railway track, and the other time in Scotland for not carrying a lantern. "Financially I am better off than when I started. I left Toronto with three cents in my pocket, which I gave away; they have probably increased ten-fold by this time. The entire trip cost me about \$400, which I raised by lecturing, selling ink and the like. For the trip through India

SHOOTING ACCIDENT.

Richard Sisson of Tobique Badly Injured by Accidental Discharge of Rifle.

(Gleaner, Saturday.)

A young man named Richard Sisson of Sisson Ridge, Tobique, was brought to the city last evening and admitted to the hospital, having been severely injured on Thursday night. He was crossing the river in a canoe in company with Asa Marsten, fishery warden, the latter paddling and Sisson, sitting in the bow of the canoe. At Mr. Marsten's great season, and well up to '98, which gave 1,500 salmon, being the best in the history of the country. I heard of these rods taking 19 salmon in one day, about 30th July, at the famous Petapedia Pool.

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CANADIAN GOODS FOR CANADIANS.

A Manufacturer Advises People to Follow the Example Set by Queen Alexandra.

(TORONTO, Aug. 30.—At the manufacturers' luncheon on the exhibition grounds yesterday, P. W. Ellis, president of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, urged Canadians to buy Canadian goods. If this course had been followed from the onset, he said, the United States census of ten years ago would not have shown that there were 750,000 Canadians in the United States. He believes that Canada was producing goods equal to any in the world. He pointed to the example of Queen Alexandra, who for the coronation ceremonies advised ladies to wear dresses of English material made by English labor.

Mr. Ellis advocated government assistance for industries to be established at points where labor would not otherwise be employed, such as the canning and woollen industries. He pointed to the progress made by the United States in the past century and remarked that such should be the high mark for Canada in this coming century.

A visitor, W. C. Challis of the department of agriculture, Pietermaritzburg, Natal, made some reference to the Canadian contingent to South Africa, remarking that the assistance sent by Canada was greatly appreciated by the Boers, who were just the kind of men they wanted. They had a good name as fighting men, and they could take care of themselves. Mr. Challis also had seen the invasion of Natal by the Boers, who overran the country and wrecked homes and farmhouses. He asserted that if people elsewhere had been on the spot, they would have been glad to see the Boers, they would not be pro-Boer very long.

Ex-Governor Ogilvie of the Yukon told the merchants and manufacturers that the freight rates on the territory were against the utilization of Canadian goods. As an example of this he cited an experience of his own. He had to construct a steel bridge, and the freight rates on the iron in Montreal, was laid down in Vancouver at a cost of \$6,000. The freight from Vancouver to Dawson was \$12,000. He bought 45 barrels of cement in Vancouver, costing \$192, and the freight on them to Dawson was \$700. On account of the rates, machinery, especially mining machinery, was brought in from the United States. In the past couple of years, however, Canadian flour had been introduced, and was finding a ready market than the American product.

FAVOR JOINING CANADA.

(Sydney, C. B. Post, 31st ult.)

Hon. D. J. Greene, K. C., a former premier of Newfoundland, is at the residence, North Sydney, speaking on the important subject of confederation with Canada, the honorable gentleman said that there was now a strong element in Newfoundland in favor of such a step. People who were opposed to it two years ago are now strongly in favor of it. He considers that the terms must be favorable to Newfoundland as the ancient colony cannot fall back on its crown lands and minerals for roads, bridges and education, as the province of Nova Scotia does.

Children Cry for CASTORIA.

"It strikes me," she remarked, "that those new neighbors of ours are very much given to borrowing trouble." "Well," answered her husband, "I don't see why not. They seem to have been borrowing everything else."

BOSTON

Hope that Lipton Home the Cup

Sentiment Grows Land in Favor of Treaty

Recent Deaths of

Realists—Coolidge

The Potato Market

Lumber Quotation

(From Our Own)

BOSTON, Aug. 29

Monday next will be

as usual with a big

list of sporting events

Scottish Glens of

to have a picnic at

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