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## OUT AND OUT COERCION.

If the educational clauses of the autonomy bill are not coercive, they are foolish. There is no doubt that the North-West interference if it was known beyond a shadow of doubt that separate schools would be maintained by the Northwest of its own free will for all time. Separate schools in perpetuity under the vicarious sanction of the federal government would be quite as satisfactory to the minority as separate schools guaranteed by virtue of a federal statute.

But the Dominion government and the influences which inspired its educational policy have no desire to do anything but what might desire to do absolutely abolish separate schools. If there were such a minority against an eventuality of this kind. In other words, it says to the Northwest, "You may some day want to change the educational system of your province, but you have in force today, and we propose to see to it that you have it, and we propose to see to it that you have it, and we propose to see to it that you have it."

Coercion is no more applicable to legislation which interferes with the present will of a province than it is to legislation which limits the future or possible action of a province in the matter of education. The autonomy bill takes the Northwest by the throat and declares that an educational system which is in part of the province shall from now on be final and irrevocable.

## IMPERIAL ORGANIZATION.

In his recent paper read before the Royal Colonial Institute Sir Frederick Pollock gave a further exposition of his views on "Imperial Organization."

Replying to a vote of thanks he took occasion to explain that he was not the author of the proposal to establish an imperial advisory council, but only one of fifty who had gone thoroughly into the subject. The scheme is therefore one of some importance as indicating the view taken by expert jurists and students of constitutional law regarding the existing relations of the component states of the empire, the best method of improving and regulating these and the practical steps to be taken with that object. All of the speakers who commented on Sir Frederick Pollock's paper expressed the scheme as outlined and deplored public apathy on the subject. May it not be said, however, that apathy has at least the negative advantage of permitting full and unfettered discussion by representative men, and is a proof that in the meantime there is no immediate danger threatening the unity of the empire?

It is satisfactory to have Sir Frederick Pollock's statement that those who have been in consultation on this important question look forward to a plan which would avoid elaborate legislation and formal change in the constitution. They had also renounced the invention of any new kind of executive or compulsory power, as no such power would be accepted by the colonies. What was aimed at, therefore, was a council of advice with only "persuasive authority," which would, however, come to have great weight, and ultimately take a definite place in the customs of the constitution. But it would not affect the constitutional powers or responsibility of any of the King's ministers. Sir Frederick Pollock suggested that the easiest way of establishing this advisory council would be in the shape of a committee of the privy council, and his proposal would be questioned involving matters of imperial interest not confined to one state or dependency, and not capable of being disposed of otherwise. The nucleus existed in the conference of premiers, which was expected to meet again in June.

In the second part of his paper Sir Frederick Pollock referred to the further part of the scheme which proposed an imperial secretariat and intelligence department to assist the imperial committee. The object of the department would be to collect and collate information for use when required and accessible to all the governments. Such an imperial commission would contain representatives of all branches of knowledge and research as well as men of business capacity, travelers, ethnologists and students of comparative politics. Among the topics Sir Frederick suggested was the constitution of an imperial high court, to include members from all parts of the empire. Another of immediate urgency was that of copyright law, and he might have added, in view of the recent strong protest from Australia, the recognition by the United Kingdom of the validity of all marriages contracted

## under the laws of the other empire states.

No doubt there are difficulties in the way of the carrying out of the scheme Sir Frederick Pollock outlined, but its underlying principle is undoubtedly the most likely to lead to satisfactory results and the most consonant with the prevalent colonial opinion.

## HEAVY DAMAGE CLAIMS.

Sir Rivers Wilson commented with undue severity on the statement of the Railway News and Commercial Traveler regarding the damage claims paid last year by the Grand Trunk Railway Company. The Railway News referred to evidence given before the railway commission, in which it was stated that the Grand Trunk had paid last year \$2,000,000 in damage claims. It suggested also that it must be very disheartening to the G.T.R. shareholders to know that it was not for the payment of these heavy claims that they were receiving dividends even on their common stock.

Sir Rivers Wilson disposed of this rather serious statement with an explanation that it appeared in an obscure newspaper which he had never heard of before. The Railway News, however, by no means an obscure newspaper, but even if it were its words should be weighed with care. The statement, a comedy rather than a tragedy, is a company's chief financial officer. The statement, however, appears to have been made before the railway commission, and as such it commands attention. The public as well as the company has an interest in the enormous sums that are paid out in damage claims. It is the public which makes up the amount in high freight rates, passenger rates and express rates. If the damage claims paid out by the company are what The Railway News declares them to be, the public is entitled to a fuller explanation than has yet appeared.

## THE GLOBE AND THE CIVIL SERVICE.

During the long reign of the Liberal party in Ontario, The Globe endured in silence the evils inflicted on the province by the habitual practice of the "spoils" system on the part of its government. At any time during their 23 years of office the Liberal administration might have instituted an independent civil service, available to all candidates who qualified, and irrespective of their political affiliations. But they preferred to strengthen their hold on the province by encouraging and extending both the "spoils" and "patronage" systems, and The Globe viewed their proceedings with approval and admiration.

Now that the Ross government has fallen, The Globe is led in its denunciations because it thinks it has found evidence that Mr. Whitney is doing in isolated cases what Mr. Ross and his predecessors did continually. The plea it sets up that civil officers should be permanent is not a new one. It is a plea that the Liberal governments ignored party politics in their appointments. This it cannot do, and far from Mr. Whitney deserting because he is to be commended for his restraint in dealing with the endless appointments made by the Liberal ministers for purely political purposes, it is entirely in favor of civil service in which qualification and merit are alone recognized. But it cannot assent to the doctrine that appointments made for party reasons are irrevocable.

In the case of the liquor law, Mr. Whitney has pledged himself that it will be honestly carried out, and he is fully entitled to exclude from his administration officials who have been found to be incompetent. It is not only that in many of the party appointments made for the benefit of party funds, and no department needs overhauling more. If The Globe is sincere in its opposition to the "spoils" and "patronage" systems, let it advocate the formation of an independent civil service on British lines, not only in Queen's Park, but at Ottawa.

## NATURAL HISTORY OF ONTARIO.

Nothing is more deserving of encouragement than the intelligent observation and study of the natural history of localities. Not only is it a perennial source of delight to the observer himself, but it is of enduring scientific value. A notable example of the position which may thus be attained is afforded by Gilbert White's Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne, now a classic of English literature and filled with valuable and instructive information, which can never lose its charm. To the trained eye no season is without its interest, and no day passes without bringing its own reward.

What may be done in this line is more easily realized from such a publication as The Ontario Natural Science Bulletin, the journal of the Wellington Field Naturalists' Club, of which the first number was recently issued. The bulletin was founded at Guelph in March, 1900, the object being to encourage biological research in Ontario. During the four years of its existence a great deal of work has been done, part of which forms the present Bulletin and more of which is promised in future numbers. Enough, however, is given to show the field which is everywhere offered for the harvest of the observant eye.

Among the notes of general interest is one on "An Unusual Migration of the Canada Jay," which occurred in October last for a parallel to which it is necessary to go back to the autumn of 1839 and 1840, since when, no similar migration has been recorded in Toronto. Another paper deals with "The Thrushes of Eastern Ontario," two species of which are common—the Wilson's Thrush and the Hermit Thrush, while the Wood Thrush is occasionally met with and the Olive-backed on migration. A London, Ont., observer contributes a notice of Cooper's Longwing House, which is common in the area, and is unknown to the district till 1902. Tables are also given of the observed dates of migration for 1904-5, and lists of the mammals, plants, orchids and grasses of various districts.

The czar's life is in danger and so is that of his loving subject Admiral Rozhdestvensky.

The Russians are queer people and perhaps Rozhdestvensky is holding aloof

## from Togo because he hasn't been introduced.

"Slicing to death" has been abolished in China. The slicer will henceforth have no place in China's scale of procedure.

The Horse Show is not exactly as it was in the days when the function drew its pride and lustre from Major Maude's Easter millinery.

Mr. Delacasse is looking forward to the day when the French people will refer to him fondly as Cass just as Hamilton refers to his favorite statesman.

Formerly the Chinese had a choice of three ways of dying. It will cause them no little regret that with the abolition of "slicing to death" they now have a choice of only two.

## REBUILDING TORONTO.

N. Y. Tribune: A few days more than one of the great cities of Toronto suffered from a fire that destroyed property valued at \$13,000,000.

An area measuring three or four square miles in each direction in the heart of the business district was swept clean. More than one-third of this, according to the estimates, more than half of the business district was swept clean. The sum of the stores and warehouses was burned last April have been replaced in parts of the city which were not invaded by the fire.

If the regulations which now control building operations in that beautiful city are compared with those that are in force here, Toronto draws the line of two particulars and less so in others. This ring was established in 1900, and the regulations are more stringent in one or two particulars and less so in others. The regulations are more stringent in one or two particulars and less so in others. The regulations are more stringent in one or two particulars and less so in others.

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