

For years past there have been bank officials in Canada, who have been openly and notoriously engaged in speculations in the stocks of the banks with which they were connected. Even if they had means of their own to carry on these speculations, they ought not to have been allowed to do so. They could do nothing to vary the price of the stocks, without injuring or deceiving their constituents and employers. If they used information which came to them officially, for their own private ends, they were guilty of a grave breach of trust, and no longer deserved the confidence of the stockholders. All experience shows that officials who commence speculating with their own money are liable, before they stop, to use the money of the bank to carry on their operations. Against this danger, the only safeguard is rigorously to put a stop to the practice, on its first discovery.

A regular official inspection of banks could not fail to discover much that is now covered with a mantle of secrecy, and which it is not desirable should be hid. An inspection will not prevent frauds such as have recently come to light, in New York; but it would prevent many improper things which might otherwise be done. It is not so much as a security against positive fraud that bank inspection is desirable as against irregularities which lead to bad results and breaches of law which cannot be made with impunity, the law violated having been made for the protection of shareholders and the public.

C. L.

BOARDING-SCHOOLS V. DAY-SCHOOLS.

THE increasing demand for boarding-school accommodation for boys in the Province marks a minor social change of some interest. It is probably due to two causes; the growing number of persons of means residing in the rural parts, and the development of the belief in the minds of many people living in our towns that their sons will be better brought up away from home. To the first of these classes boarding-schools are a necessity, if they wish their children to know anything beyond the elementary school course; and it is pleasing to reflect that the increase of this class means the diffusion of certain elements of culture which will tend to redeem Canadian country life from the unattractiveness which has hitherto characterized it.

The steady growth of the opinion that boys can be better educated away from home is a very noteworthy phenomenon. Nearly every town and considerable village in Ontario is provided with a high school which affords the means of acquiring the rudiments of a liberal education. Nothing can be clearer than that when there is a fairly good high school and the other influences to which a boy is exposed are good, the best place for him to study is at home. No boarding-school master, however great his influence may be, can foster the higher, and keep in check the baser tendencies of a lad's nature so successfully as judicious parents. Yet the sentiment in favour of a boarding-school training has grown and is growing.

The reason is to be found partly in the relaxation of parental authority, which is one of the significant characteristics of this age, and in the increasing number of men whose business requires them to be much away from home. But the tendency is more largely due to the desire of parents to expose their sons as little as possible to the contaminating influences of Canadian town life. All the world over, residence in the country is found to be the best for the moral as it is for the physical development of the young. Perhaps our Canadian towns are not worse than towns in other lands; but there is in every one of them much that tends to vitiate the moral atmosphere for both men and boys. During a considerable part of the year, our climate compels us to live largely in-doors, and at these seasons the attractions of the June novel, the saloon, and the public billiard-table are hardly counteracted by any others. In many places you may add to these evil influences those of gambling and betting duly enforced by the example of the most prominent men.

Whatever be the causes, the results are patent. A very large proportion of the boys brought up in our towns and villages turn out badly. To this all who have followed the history of any of them for twenty years can bear the fullest testimony. And it seems to be the case that the smaller places are the worst. In our cities there are great aggregations of evil, but the good-influences are also stronger, and the line of demarcation between those who lead reputable and those who lead disreputable lives is firmly drawn. In them too, there are more books, more numerous and effective athletic organizations, more harmless attractions of every kind. The city parent who wishes to secure for his sons playmates who are free from serious evil tendencies can generally find them; and as boys in large places segregate themselves into sets, outside of which they have no intimacies, he may feel certain that, after his have fairly joined a certain good set, they will run little risk of contamination. But the

careful father residing in a small town or village is in a different position. There all the boys, whether well or ill brought up, constitute practically one set. A large number of them will have received a very small amount of paternal attention. It would be but a slight exaggeration to say that the average boy in a small town or village is not trained, but simply grows. His father sends him for several years to the Public and Sunday-school, but seems to imagine that his duty ends there. He grows up without manners, without character. To gratify his social instincts he idles about the streets during the large parts of the year when he can neither skate nor play baseball. He drops into the saloon and the billiard-room, at first for a lark, afterwards because he is certain to find company there. Though perhaps without any exceptionally strong bent towards evil, he learns a great deal, because he is neglected, and there is an absence of counter attractions. His father, who seldom spends an hour at home that is not passed in eating or sleeping, knows nothing of what is going on. The result is that at eighteen his son probably has learned to drink and gamble, and joins the manners of a tramp to the morality of a bar-tender and the ideals of a dime novel.

With some such neglected boys, in such places, the well trained lad must more or less associate, or else be without playmates and friends. From this dilemma a well managed boarding-school affords an escape. There he will lead an ordered life, and as friends whom he will make will be under the same discipline, the chances are much greater that he will not form undesirable and injurious associations.

B.

A SKETCH OF THE GENERAL ASPECT OF MONTREAL LIFE.

THERE is perhaps no city on the continent, certainly not in Canada, exhibiting so strange a commingling of the French and English languages and people as in this, the metropolis of the Dominion. Here are met the descendants of those who spoke the language of Racine, Voltaire and Rousseau, side by side with men sprung from the three greatest races of the British nation.

Between these two great classes there exists a strong line of demarcation. The English people, for the most part, live in the western portion of the city, the French in the eastern, and though dwelling in such close proximity yet they form two distinct societies, each having its three grades of low, middle, and high class. The French character is light and emotional, fond of the pleasures of the moment, careless of the sorrows that time may bring. A French Canadian of high society speaks with finer accent than even a Parisian, and charms one with the brilliant wit and ready flow of language always at his command. Although in profoundness of research and in the wide grasp of a subject he is scarcely equal to the English speaker, yet in eloquence and figure of expression, he far excels him. It would scarcely be true to say that the French lady of Lower Canada is more beautiful than her English sister, still there is a certain grace and ease, a tastefulness in dress, and a piquancy of manner peculiar to herself that renders her especially charming. She has almost invariably dark hair and eyes, as evidences of her Celtic extraction. As a consequence of the care which the Catholic Church bestows upon the musical part of its service, from earliest youth the love of this grand and beautiful art is implanted in the French Canadian mind, and develops as age advances.

Let us now turn to the English-speaking, business man of Montreal. He is active, energetic, and works incessantly. Commercial prosperity is the one end and ambition of his life, and to this object he devotes all his powers. To his energy and business sagacity is due, in a large measure, the prosperity of the city both in the past and present time. One race in particular stands forth prominently—the Scotch; their shrewd and economical nature has placed them almost universally in the foremost rank of the city merchants. The most beautiful residences of Sherbrook Street are occupied by Scotchmen who have risen from the ranks by dint of hard toil and saving.

It is a curious fact that, go where you will among French society, you will always be addressed in your own tongue, and often with perfection of grammatical construction and accent. It seems to be one of their ambitions to be able to speak and write English. On the other hand, it is the exception to find an English person who can speak French even tolerably well.

Although, numerically, the French element far exceeds the English, yet the latter, by its great energy and business ability, almost exclusively controls the commerce and wealth of the city. The great banking institutions, trading houses and steamship lines are either entirely English or are under English management and supported by English capital. By reason of their majority, the civic government is virtually in the hands