

# COTTON'S WEEKLY

FOREVER  
"THE OBSERVER"

Is published every THURSDAY at Cowansville, P.Q., for the broad field of Canada in general and the Eastern Townships in particular.

**OUR PLATFORM**—THIS PUBLICATION IS DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE PLAIN PEOPLE OF CANADA. WE BELIEVE IN AN INDUSTRIAL AND POLITICAL DEMOCRACY, BASED UPON A SOUND AND WIDE ELECTORATE.

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WM. U. COTTON, EDITOR AND PROP.  
H. A. WZBB, BUSINESS MANAGER

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1908

## ELIOT AND EDUCATION

F. C. MEARS

Charles W. Eliot, whose resignation from the presidency of Harvard University is to become effective on May 19, 1909, has been at the head of that institution for thirty years, during which time he has revolutionized academic methods in his own institution and by his lectures and writings has expelled harmful illusions from the mind of academic America. President Eliot is celebrated for his unflinching loyalty to his convictions in the face of censure and derision from both high and low circles.

That higher education should be conducted largely on the elective basis has been the key note of this eminent educator's public utterances. Dr. Eliot well knows the opposition this doctrine has met and is continually meeting at the hands of the apostles of conservatism. In a memorable address delivered by him in Boston six years ago on the occasion of Emerson's centenary he said, "Since the Civil War, a whole generation of educational administrators has been steadily at work developing what is called the elective system in the institutions of education which deal with the ages above twelve. It has been a slow, step-by-step process, carried on against much active opposition and more sluggish obstruction. The system is a method of educational organization which recognizes the immense expansion of knowledge during the nineteenth century, and takes account of the needs and capacities of the individual child and youth. Now, Emerson laid down in plain terms the fundamental doctrines on which this elective system rests. He taught that the one prudence in life is concentration; the one evil, dissipation. He said: 'You must elect your work; you shall take what your brain can, and drop all the rest.'"

The elective system, to a greater or less degree, is being adopted by all the larger institutions of learning in Canada and the United States. The advocates of this system insist that its results are advantageous for society as a whole, as well as for the individual. When a student selects from the labyrinth of curricula that to which he shall vigorously and exclusively apply himself he is preparing himself to fulfil his mission on earth in a manner which will produce the greatest happiness for himself and for his brothers. He does better than he knows when he applies himself to the study of that to which he is best adapted. He is rendering a real benefit to humanity who does what he can do best.

The present writer was in the teaching profession long enough to realize the folly and inefficiency of any educational system which is not partially or wholly elective. He has observed with irritation the odium students attach to certain subjects to the study of which they are not naturally adapted. He has observed with pleasure the glowing enthusiasm with which the same students applied themselves to the mastery of subjects and problems that they liked.

Education, both primary and advanced, consists, first, in the acceleration and, second, in the direction and guidance of mental development. It is obvious that any system of education which tends to retard or to distort the evolution of the impressionable mind is disastrously inconsistent with the principle of education. The elective system is sound, reasonable and eminently efficient because it is a vital recognition

of the essential grounds along which the human mind progresses. The old arbitrary system proved an effective check to the development of the young mind "out of a chalk circle of imbecility into fruitfulness." The elective system is proving one of the strongest auxiliaries to civilization. It is the system for this enlightened century. Said Emerson fifty years ago, "Society can never prosper, but must always be bankrupt, until every man does that which he was created to do." We do not advocate the wholesale adoption of the elective system in the educational institutions of Canada, but we are firmly of the opinion that a little more of the elective system and a little less of the arbitrary system should be introduced into the lower schools of our country.

## EMERSON AND POLITICS

F. C. MEARS

Canada is just recovering from the throes of a Federal election. By a secure majority Sir Wilfrid Laurier has been conceded a further lease of power to complete the national policy he enunciated years ago. With the peace and confidence born of certitude our citizens have returned to their farms, factories, and offices and have resumed their daily duties fondly hoping that he to whom has been entrusted their national destiny will heed the stern lesson taught him in the recent campaign that "politics rest on necessary foundations and cannot be treated with levity."

The campaign did not completely absorb national attention for the very simple but significant reason that it was a campaign of neither personalities nor principles. Those who sought the people's suffrage in a large number of instances did not invoke the people's recognition of their own personal attributes, neither did the candidates fairly and candidly discuss the platform upon which the Government, if returned, hoped to base its administration. It is a notable fact that in a majority of cases the candidates carefully evaded the public debate of political principles, or if they discuss them it was only in a casual, cursory and half-hearted manner. The campaign was eminently characterized by scandal-mongering and scandal-dissing. Candidates confined their speeches to exposing their opponents' doings. The enunciation of half-truths and the publication of slander were the order of the day. It is whispered in our ears that a goodly portion of private capital was utilized. It is whispered in our ears that the members for some constituencies were sustained by the practice of sinister methods, and that other members were uneaten in the same manner.

As the embers of electoral unrest flicker out and the rostral clamorings cease to be heard we are afforded an opportunity to cast a retrospect, to glance back over the recent days of "sturm und drang." In the aftermath two or three questions suggest themselves. How can there be a campaign devoid of the sincere discussion of political principles? Can men resume their seats at Ottawa and rest at ease after having ignored the electorate's demands for a fair public debate on issues that the representatives would have to decide upon in the course of the ensuing session?

Ralph Waldo Emerson was a thorough Yankee philosopher hailing from Concord, near Boston, who gave to American radicalism weight and certain well-balanced and clearly defined aims. He lived from 1803 until 1882, the most impressionable period in the history of Anglo-Saxons. He was the most potent factor in moulding the opinions of New England, and his influence will be felt through the ages. His inner eye was unsurpassed for its sagacity and penetrativeness. His comment on the social and political conditions of his own time are no less applicable to present day conditions. He saw the hollowness of politics when he said, "A party is perpetually corrupted by personality. Whilst to absolve the association from dishonesty, we cannot extend the same charity to their leaders. They reap the reward of the docility and zeal of the masses which they direct. Ordinarily, our parties are parties of circumstance, and not of principle. The vice of our leading parties in this country is, that they do not plant themselves on the deep and necessary grounds to which they are respectively entitled, but lash themselves into fury in the carrying of some local and momentary measure, nowise useful to the commonwealth." A little farther in his sane lecture on "Politics" he says, "We think our civilization near its meridian, but we are only at the cock-crowing and the morning star. In our barbarous society the influence of character is in its infancy. As a political power, as the rightful lord who is to

tumble all rulers from their chairs, its presence is hardly yet suspected."

Those words are as true today as they were thirty years ago. They are the severest condemnation of our Federal politics that could be uttered but who can conscientiously deny the truth of them. Our politics have descended from the fair and fruitful discussion and faithful adoption of broad and high principles to the odious practice of manufacturing and publishing scandal by those who think themselves secure from the searchlight of public conscience.

In 1774 Edmund Burke, whom John Morley calls the greatest master of civil wisdom in the English tongue, declared before his electors at Bristol, "Certainly, gentlemen, it ought to be the happiness and glory of a representative to live in the strictest union, the closest correspondence, and the most unreserved communication with his constituents. Their wishes ought to have great weight with him; their opinions, high respect, their business unremitting attention." That is the ideal relationship to be maintained between electors and the elected, and the one which will realize the greatest happiness for the greatest number.

## MECHANICAL NOTES

Items of Interest to the Mechanic and Farmer.

The 900,000th patent from the United States patent office was issued during the first week in October.

A Chicago judge has ruled that baby carriages must have headlights when used on the streets at night.

A cheap paint can be made from a solution of borax and water mixed with linseed oil.

When painting yellow pine exposed to the weather add a little pine tar with the painting coat.

Where bolts are subject to rust, the threads should be painted with pure white lead; then they will not rust fast.

The government bureau of animal industry estimates that 3 1/2 per cent of the cattle in the United States are affected with tuberculosis.

A good way to put in a new lining in the kitchen range is to purchase some plastic paste sold by hardware dealers and mix it according to directions, but before applying, get a piece of wire mesh-used for chicken fences and cut the piece to the size of the back wall or plate. Apply the paste, covering the wire mesh so it will remain in the centre of the lining. This will give a reinforced lining that will not fall out, even if it does crack.

A door lock may be lubricated by using some lead scraped from the lead in a pencil and put in the lock. This may be done by putting the scrapings on a piece of paper and blowing them into the lock through the keyhole.

## His Favourite Verses

The following are said to be the favorite verses of the late Dr. Drummond of Habitant fame:

"PLAY UP, PLAY UP AND PLAY THE GAME."

"There's a breathless hush in the close to-night,

Ten to one and the match to win;

Pumping pitch and a blinding light,

An hour to play, and the last man in.

And it is not for the sake of a ribboned coat,

Or the selfish hope of a season's fame,

But his captain's hand on his shoulder smote,

"Play up, play up! and play the game."

"The sand of the desert is sodden red,

Red with the wreck of a broken square;

The gattling's jammed, and the Colonel dead,

And the regiment blind with dust and smoke.

The River of Death has brimmed its banks,

And England's far, and Honor a name;

But the voice of a schoolboy rallies the ranks,

"Play up, play up! and play the game."

"This is the word that, year by year,

While in her place the school is set,

Every one of her sons must hear,

And none that hear it dare forget.

This they all, with joyful mind,

Bear through life, like a torch in flame;

And, falling, fling to the host behind,

"Play up, play up! and play the game."

—Henry Newbolt.

The old saw, "man wants but little here below," have been revised to read, "The workman gets but little and stays below."

A new electrical apparatus, which is designed to facilitate the dispatch of postal letters, has just been installed in a Paris postoffice. It consists of an "endless" roll of linoleum, 200 feet in length. This, in revolving, rubs against 32 electric bobbins, operated by a powerful distributor. When the current is switched on the linoleum roll descends into the letter box, the contents of which are attracted to the linoleum by the bobbins. The letters are thrown into a truck and carried by means of a miniature railway through the public room to the sorting office. The saving in time is said to be considerable, and the apparatus is almost noiseless.

The teacher without smiles is a menace to the moral atmosphere of the school, while the one with a kindly smile for every good deed and for every honest effort fills the school with happiness, hard work and goodness.

"Ability is of little account without opportunity."—Napoleon I.

# Cedar Shingles

High Grade 16 Inch  
N. B. Cedar Shingles

We have the largest and best equipped Shingle Mill in the Province, with a yearly capacity of ONE HUNDRED MILLIONS, and are always in a position to ship promptly all orders entrusted to us.

We also make a specialty of Planed and Matched SPRUCE LUMBER.

The best of Raw Material, combined with careful attention to details of manufacture and milling, ensure perfect satisfaction to our customers.

The Metis Lumber Co.

PRICE, RIMOUSKI CO., P. Q.

## THE

# Brome County Asbestos

COMPANY, Limited

Public notice is hereby given that under the first part of chapter 79 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1906, and known as "The Companies' Act," letters patent have been issued under the seal of the Secretary of State of Canada bearing date the 17th day of September, 1908, incorporating Frederick A. Olmstead, Merchant, of the Village of Sutton, in the Province of Quebec; Charles A. Nutting, Advocate, of the Town of Waterloo, in the said Province; Herbert H. Williams, Mining Engineer, of the Township of Broughton, in the said Province; Albert C. Lytle, Railway Manager, of the Village of Eastman, in the said Province, and William Johnson, Broker, of the City of Montreal, in the said Province, for the following purposes:

(a) To carry on a mining industry in all its details.

(b) To explore, develop, work, improve and maintain gold, silver, copper, chrome, iron and asbestos mines.

(c) To acquire, buy, possess and dispose of all mines and all property necessary for the working of their business.

(d) To convert minerals into commercial products using for this purpose steam, water, electric or other motive power.

(e) To sell the products of the mines in the Dominion of Canada and elsewhere.

(f) To further acquire all movable and immovable property and timber limits.

(g) To build boarding and other houses.

(h) To acquire, construct, operate and dispose of mills.

(i) To buy and sell goods, wares and merchandise.

(j) To construct and operate railway lines for the purposes of their business on lands owned or controlled by the company.

(k) To acquire chrome and asbestos lands, mines, claims, mining rights, rights of way, and other rights and properties and to pay for the same either in money or in full paid up shares or debentures or bonds of the company or partly in money and partly in such shares, debentures or bonds, and to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of the same or any of them.

The operations of the said company to be carried on throughout the Dominion of Canada and elsewhere by the name of "THE BROME COUNTY ASBESTOS DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (LIMITED)," with a capital of two hundred thousand dollars divided into two thousand shares of one hundred dollars each.

The chief place of business of the said company shall be at the Village of Eastman, County of Brome, in the province of Quebec.

Dated at the office of the Secretary of State the seventeenth day of September, Nineteen Hundred and eight.

R. W. SCOTT,  
Secretary of State.

OUCHTRED & PHELAN,  
Attorneys for "The Brome County Asbestos Development Company (Ltd)."

Nov. 24-11

# THE HUB

The Bargain  
Centre of  
Missisquoi  
and Brome

=====



# Buy Useful Serviceable Gifts

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WE ARE

# Ready for Xmas Shoppers

With a good assortment of useful, serviceable Articles suitable for gifts. Visit our Fur Department where you will find a good supply of warm Fur Coats and Jackets, and a nice assortment of Small Furs. Remember you have a stock of over \$3,000.00 to select from.

WE HAVE REASSORTED our general Dry Goods Stock and strengthened up on all lines for Xmas selling. Dress Goods make very acceptable Gifts and this line is in very good condition.

Neckwear, Belts, Fancy Combs, Gloves, Hosiery, Underwear, Boots and Shoes, Overshoes, Rubbers, Skating Boots and Moccasins are some of the lines we sell for gifts. We have also reassorted our Handkerchiefs in both Men's and Women's.

We have not neglected the SLIPPERS for Men and Women. We are showing a nice line of Men's Dressing Gowns at extremely moderate prices, \$5.75 each, and they are really very pretty.

We have just received for Xmas selling, a nice assortment of Men's Ties, Wraps, Mufflers, Sweaters, Sweater Coats.

## Millinery Millinery

Kindly bring in your orders for Xmas now. Good assortments await your inspection.

## GROCERIES

Twenty lbs. Granulated Sugar \$1. 3 lbs. extra good choice Raisins for 25c. 3 1/2 lbs No. 2 Raisins for 25c. Good Cream Tartar 30c per lb. 2 packages Gold Bar Seeded Raisins for 25c. Salt Salmon, Salt Lake Trout and Codfish.

We have stocked up our Grocery Department for the Xmas trade and you will find the quality of our goods all that can be desired. We do our best to have Butter and Eggs on hand at all times and fresh. Try our Grocery Department.

## Wanted

Maple Sugar in any sized cakes up to 7c per lb.  
Fresh Eggs, strictly New Laid, at 30c per dozen.  
Fresh Dairy Butter at 26c a lb.  
Potatoes at 65c per 60 lbs.  
Washed Wool 15c per lb., unwashed 1-3 less.  
Beans at \$1.50 per 60 lbs.  
Hard Block Wood at \$2.00

# The Hub, Cowansville

The Christmas Gift that is always remembered.  
Many times a day for many years  
a Waterman's Ideal Fountain Pen  
Will be a constant reminder of the giver.  
GEO. W. JOHNSTON  
COWANSVILLE

# LEND US YOUR EAR

For a minute or two. We want to do your Plumbing and other jobs of this nature. Our staff will take charge of any Roofing, Steamfitting, etc., in a creditable manner, and our prices are very reasonable. Come and talk it over with us.

Canada Dairy Utensil Co., Ltd  
Buzzell Block, Cowansville