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CANADA LIFE BUILDING, TORONTO

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SHORTHAND IN THE SCHOOLS

Editor Toller:

Sir—There is a question now before the Public School Board which ought to interest the many readers of your widely circulated paper. It is the question of the adoption of a system or systems of shorthand to be taught in the schools. The present proposal of the committee is to teach only one system, and that the oldest, most difficult to learn, the least legible when learned, of any of the systems now in use in Toronto. Surely a policy of this kind is not in harmony with the spirit of the age, when everything tends toward newer, simpler and at the same time more practical ideas.

Permit me to point out that the Cross Eclectic System stands for all that is new and up-to-date, is simple and practical, and its writers are capable of doing any kind of work done by writers of any other system, and with less than half the time spent in study and practice.

Here are a few facts I would like to have your readers read and consider: Mr. Isaac Pitman puts the claims of his system in the following words: "The average amount of the time necessary to qualify a tolerably expert writer to follow a speaker at the rate of 120 or 130 words per minute (including the time spent in learning the first style) is about twelve months by practicing an hour per day, or six months with two hours' daily practice. Some have attained this speed in less time, while others require nearly double this amount of practice. It will generally be found an easy and pleasant task to increase the rate of speed from 120 to 140 or 150 words a minute, but to go beyond this much labor will be required. Two years' constant practice should enable a stenographer to write 170 or 180 words per minute, but many persons we believe could never attain this speed."

Experience in this city and elsewhere has amply demonstrated that a speed of 125 to 150 words per minute and upwards can be attained by the Eclectic system in much less than half the time and with half the practice necessary with the Pitman system.

A person with an ordinary English education cannot with the Pitman system acquire the speed necessary in verbatim or court reporting because of the impossibility of making a reliable transcription of the notes owing to the omission of the vowels and the necessity of depending on the bare outline of the words and on the context. Eclectic writers have no difficulty in this respect because the system enables them to indicate each word legibly even when written at top speed, so that it can be read without any context.

Only an insignificant fraction of those who take shorthand in the Public Schools will become professional reporters. The object of Public School education is not to give professional training, and what is needed is a system like the Eclectic, easily acquired, rapidly written, and in which all the sounds are represented, so that it can be read at sight at any distance of time. With such a system the knowledge acquired in the Public Schools could afterwards be utilized by the ordinary individual in his daily work.

The use of the Eclectic system does not prejudicially affect the pupils' ability to do correctly the shorthand used in the Eclectic system is the same as in the ordinary shorthand, while the Pitman uses a different movement, which prevents the pupil from attaining the facility that would be acquired by always using the same movement.

There are scores of successful Eclectic writers in Toronto who failed in the Pitman system, while scores could be quoted who failed in the Eclectic system and succeeded in Pitman's. So far as I have been able to get statistics, they show that a large percentage of those who attempt to acquire the Pitman system fail, while not one per cent. fail with the Eclectic.

The Eclectic and various other systems have been taught in different schools and colleges at the same time, and in every case the Eclectic surpassed all others. It is noteworthy (1) that the Eclectic has been used by the six best court reporters in Toronto only one who used the Pitman system, the other five using the Eclectic; (2) that the Eclectic has been used by the six best stenographers in Ontario who do not authorize any one system to the exclusion of others; but will allow the local authorities a choice so that the best system in fact properly placed, and not in the opinion of the enacting law of the survival of the fittest.

As a member of the Public School Board and a servant of the people, I am only interested in getting the system which will be of the greatest good to the greatest number, and I am confident if a test is made the Eclectic will prove to be all I claim for it, the easiest to learn, and by that are the best of any. Supposing you wonderful and wise piece of legislation passed, as was pointed out in last week's article, with about 40 resolutions going into hysteresis over the Dominion Senate one better by an act making it an offence to strike at all. Mr. Loughheed and his co-schemers imagine that international trade unionists in Canada are going into hysteresis over the Dominion Senate one better by an act making it an offence to strike at all. Mr. Loughheed and his co-schemers imagine that international trade unionists in Canada are going into hysteresis over the Dominion Senate one better by an act making it an offence to strike at all.

NO BOUNDARY LINES FOR LABOR MOVEMENT

The Nationals Would Divide Only to Destroy Another Criticism of our Opponents by Mr. Samuel Landers.

The Unions will be Alive when Their Critics are Dead.

National or international trade unionism being a public issue at the present time, perhaps another treatise would be in keeping with the great importance of this, which is to Canadian trade unionists a most vital question. It is to laugh, to read of the attacks from all quarters on the "foreign agitators" who should be debarré from coming into Canada to exercise any authority over Canadian workmen. If the bringing of these into Canada to perform, from the workers' viewpoint, legitimate business in connection with their various organizations, be in any way wrong or illegal, then limitation is no longer the highest form of flattery. What have the Canadian workers done that their employers have not led the way by example? When Canadian manufacturers and industries wanted foremen, managers or overseers, they invariably went to the United States, brought them into Canada, and placed them over the Canadian workmen and women, to regulate their hours of labor, rates of wages, and other conditions, the workers did not demur but looked upon it from a commercial standpoint as a purely business proposition. But when the workers desire to bring their "managers," "foremen," etc., from the same United States, then Mr. Patriotic Manufacturer begins the cry of "wolf" and "foreigners." It is to laugh again, when the poor "unhappily" manufacturers point at the "foreign agitators" who come here to "create a hatred between the employer and employee." Yes, gods! where did the Kingston Metal Trades Association go when they wanted to organize but to Cincinnati for Organizer De Brill, of the National Manufacturers' Association, of which David M. Parry is the president, and to his fellow workers rightfully belongs the name of "Carrists." Again, how long is it since the Toronto manufacturers brought an international manufacturer over to the Dominion Senate one better by an act making it an offence to strike at all.

Canadian workmen at Kingston, and yet this same Mr. Parry is one of the loudest of the crowd of manufacturers to go whining to the Government about "foreign agitators." The similarity of the phrasing of all of the international union assaults goes to show that there is a concerted action on the part of capitalist interests to divide the movement of the workers by a boundary line and flag, but their objects are obvious; they have about as much love for a "national" or "purely Canadian union" as they have for the snailbox; but having once divided the 200,000 Canadian unionists from their two million comrades across the line, the crushing of these by another concerted diplomatic move would only be a matter of a few years at the most. "Aha, aha," when everybody has had their kick at the "carcasses" of the ever growing international trade union movement (which, by the way, has organized 46 additional subordinate locals in the past 15 days), along comes that prostitute body known as the Dominion Senate, and one of its members, named Loughheed (some say it is Dougherty) and introduces a bill, which the following is the text: "Every one is guilty of an indictable offence, and liable to two years' imprisonment, who, being a person not a British subject, whether residing in or out of Canada, does in Canada incite, urge or induce workmen, by any act or means whatsoever, to quit any employment in which they may be engaged, or to enter upon any strike with the object of enforcing additional wages or terms of employment from their employer." And the majority of the Senators said Amen.

The bill has passed its second reading, but will have to be ratified by the Commons, which is as likely as a bill to prevent "high balls." Holland only went to the Dominion Senate one better by an act making it an offence to strike at all. Mr. Loughheed and his co-schemers imagine that international trade unionists in Canada are going into hysteresis over the Dominion Senate one better by an act making it an offence to strike at all.

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