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All articles, contributions, and letters on matters pertaining to the editorial department should be addressed to the Editor, and not to any other person who may be supposed to be connected with the paper.

IT was a happy thought of the Ontario Minister of Education to call a conference of representative manufacturers, artisans, and others interested, to consider the question of providing better facilities for technical education in the Province. The comprehensive speech with which the Minister prefaced the discussions showed that there is in Canada a much wider field than many of us may have supposed for turning scientific knowledge and skilled labour to practical account. The statistics of various lines of industry, yet undeveloped or but partially developed, were instructive. The testimony of the manufacturers was conclusive to the effect that the proportion of skilled, scientifically trained workmen in the manufactures which are being carried on is extremely small. Those that are absolutely indispensable have usually to be brought from abroad. Sir Daniel Wilson, and other educators present, emphatically approved of such an extension of the present School of Practical Science as may make the opportunities for thorough technical instruction more nearly commensurate with the importance of the subject and the needs of this great Province. The utility of such institutions is the more obvious from the fact that, in consequence of the almost universal use of labour-saving machinery, and of the minute subdivision of labour, which are gradually revolutionizing all industries, it is no longer necessary, in most cases, that the individual workman should have complete knowledge of the various parts and processes of the manufacture in which he is engaged. All that is absolutely needed, and all that is, in too many instances, possessed, is a certain amount of mechanical skill, quickly gained by practice, in the manipulation of a single tool or machine. The educating influence of the mechanical arts is thus in a great measure lost, and both the opportunities and the inducements for the workman to make himself master of his business in all its departments are, to a large extent, taken away. It thus appears that in making provision for the study of science in its application to the various arts for which the country is adapted, Mr. Ross will be not only stimulating manufacturing industry, but raising the level of general intelligence.

ADVICES received by a Cabinet Minister are said to indicate that the Half-breeds in some parts of the North-West Territories are taking kindly to the amended School Act of the Territorial Council, which makes attendance at the Public Schools compulsory within reasonable limits. This is as it should be. The Council acted wisely, no doubt, in adding the compulsory clause. If any of the Metis or other citizens do not see it now, they will at a future day. The Dominion Government should make a similar regulation with regard to the Indian children, not only providing good schools on every reservation, but enforcing with due moderation the attendance of all of suitable age. We do not know to what extent this is already done. The schools for the Indians in particular, and probably for all classes, should be largely industrial, and special pains should be taken to implant and foster, as far as possible, a taste for farming. The school, if of the right stamp, can do more than any other agency to settle permanently both the Half-breed and the Indian problems, but to secure the best and speediest effects compulsory attendance is indispensable.

COMMENTING on the Act for the Organization of the Council of the North-West Territories, at the time of its passage, we expressed the opinion that a Constitution so nondescript and an Executive so absolute would not long satisfy the intelligent citizens of the North-West. The tone of the representatives at the late meeting of the Council fully bore out the prediction. Lieut. Governor Royal wisely refrained from using the prerogative in a very important matter—that of the appointment of his advisers—and permitted the Council to suggest their names, thereby giving the representatives a semblance, at least, of responsible administration. But, as the absolute power of appointment still remains in the Governor's hands, and he may at any moment withdraw the concession, his act of grace does not go to the root of the matter. Judging, however, from the tenor of articles in some of the journals believed to represent the views of the Dominion Government, it is not likely that any serious difficulty will arise, as Government and Parliament will no doubt be ready to concede full responsible government to the Territories as soon as they are prepared, financially and otherwise, to demand it.

THE recent detection of two ladies of good position in an attempt to defraud the revenue by smuggling goods across the frontier at Windsor, suggests a query which is often forced upon public attention: Why is it that so many men and women of good repute, whom no one would hesitate to trust in a private transaction, seem to think it no harm to cheat the public revenue, and to deceive the Customs' officer with the essence, if not the very substance, of falsehood? It is often remarked that women, who, as a rule, are far more scrupulous in ordinary matters than men, are often the chief of sinners where the revenue officer is concerned. As is well known, it is almost a principle of conduct with many persons otherwise of fair reputation, that the more they can get the advantage of the Government in the matter of a contract, or a job, or anything of that kind, the better. These facts—that they are facts few who have had opportunities for observation will deny—clearly indicate a great lack of moral training. The matter is well worth the attention of parents and teachers and preachers, and all who occupy in any way the relation of educators of the people. It should not be hard to show the conscientious that to defraud the State by overcharging, smuggling, or any other device, is really to defraud one's fellow-citizens, and so to violate the highest law of right. We need to cherish more carefully those noble traditions of national honour, which had so much weight with many of our parents or grandparents, and others of the old British school, who would as soon have thought of doing injury to their own flesh and blood as of dealing dishonourably with the Queen in any department of Her Majesty's service.

THERE is a good deal to be said against, and perhaps not very much for, any system of superannuation allowances or pensions in any department of the public service. It is fitting that the public, whether organized

as Government, or Municipal Council, or Trustee Board, or in any other capacity, should pay fair salaries to all its servants of every grade, but having done so it is hard to see any good reason why it should, in addition, relieve those servants of the duty and necessity which press upon every other man and woman, in like circumstances, to make some provision for old age, and for those dependent upon them. The injustice to the taxpayer may, perhaps, be lessened, but the most objectionable features of the system are not removed, when the public employer takes it upon himself to keep back a certain portion of the employee's salary, in order to create a fund for the payment of the pension. It might be urged with at least a semblance of truth, that if the salary is fairly earned by the employee it belongs to him, and no authority has any right, even with the consent of the majority, to keep a part of the sum back for any purpose whatever. It may be argued, too, with considerable force, that all such paternal methods tend to injure the character of those affected by relieving them of a responsibility they ought themselves to bear, and at the same time putting a premium upon improvidence and extravagance. But whether all this be granted or not, it seems indisputable that if pensions are paid at all they should be paid uniformly, in accordance with fixed principles and rules. The practice that seems to have grown up in the Toronto School Board of voting bonuses and pensions at will or caprice, or voting them to teachers of one sex and not to those of the other, is indefensible. It is well that it is being sharply challenged.

THE unanimous opinion pronounced by the Supreme Court on the 22nd inst., in answer to the question submitted a few weeks since by the Railway Committee of the Privy Council, was probably scarcely less a surprise to the friends of Manitoban and Provincial rights than to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and its partisans. The effect of the argument had before the court by the counsel for the respective parties was to leave the impression on most minds that the Canadian Pacific was pretty sure to win on the strictly legal aspects of the case. As the court has contented itself with simply giving the opinion asked for, without any statement of reasons, we can only conjecture the course of reasoning by which their decision affirming the validity of the Manitoba Act was reached. It seems, however, not improbable that the erroneous expectation of the public may have been based on too narrow a view of the scope of the inquiry, as it presented itself to the minds of the highest judicial authorities in the Dominion. The assumption was perhaps general that the question before the court was simply one of the interpretation of certain sections of Chapter 109 of the Revised Statutes, and of the Railway Act of 1888, referred to in the inquiry of the Railway Committee. The Court, on the other hand, may have seen that these enactments must be read in the light of the constitutional rights of the Provinces as determined by the British North America Act. To the lay mind the conflict between the literal reading of the sections submitted to the court for interpretation, and the prerogatives believed to have been secured to the Provinces by the Act of Confederation, seems very clear. It is quite possible that to the legal and judicial mind it was equally clear that all subsequent legislation by the Dominion Parliament must be understood and interpreted in harmony with the paramount statute, or otherwise be pronounced unconstitutional and of no effect. Be that as it may, the announcement of the result has brought a feeling of relief throughout the Dominion, and will prevent, we may hope, further harmful agitation.

COUPLED with the widespread satisfaction caused by the opinion of the Supreme Court is a very natural regret at the absence of such a *resumé* of the reasons upon which the opinion was based, as might have constituted a guide in all similar cases that may arise hereafter. To have given these reasons might, perhaps, have been regarded as going beyond the record, or the court may have contented itself with following the example of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, with which its functions were in this case analogous. Of more immediate practical importance is the statement that the Canadian Pacific authorities refuse to accept the verdict as final, and are