

Current Events

Miss Ethel Murphy

Ontario Education Act The Education Department of the Province of Ontario aims at introducing in September the Adolescent School Attendance Act in every urban municipality with a population of five thousand or over. The central feature of the bill is contained in this clause:

"Every adolescent between 14 and 16 years of age shall attend school for the full time during which the schools of the municipality in which he resides are open each year unless excused for the reasons hereafter mentioned."

The exceptions are as follows: Boys and girls between 14 and 16 are exempted if they are physically disabled, if they have passed the matriculation examination or its equivalent, if they are in attendance at some other educational institution approved by the Minister, or if they are employed on the authority of a home permit or an employment certificate. A home permit is granted if the parent or guardian can convince the authorities that the boy or girl is needed at home. An employment certificate is granted if the services of the boy or girl are required for his or her maintenance or the maintenance of some dependent person. Even those who have these permits must attend part-time instruction aggregating 400 hours a year.

Between 16 and 18 years they must attend part-time instruction for an aggregate of 320 hours unless they have completed a course of study equivalent to matriculation.

M. Briand The Leygues Ministry in France has fallen and M. Briand, former Premier has undertaken to form a Cabinet. M. Briand is an extremely practical man. In his younger days he advocated the general strike as the best weapon of the working class, yet in 1910 it was he who as premier called railwaymen into the army in order to defeat a strike. M. Briand says with reference to German reparations 'it is better to reduce our claims on condition they are guaranteed by a definite contract than to seek more important payments in the future by our own strength alone.'

While in some cases British soldiers are in need of employment and French civilians are living in cellars in the devastated areas, the former Kaiser is in luxury in Holland with a steady inflow of money from Germany. Wars might end if those responsible for bringing them about were sure of ignominious punishment in case of failure.

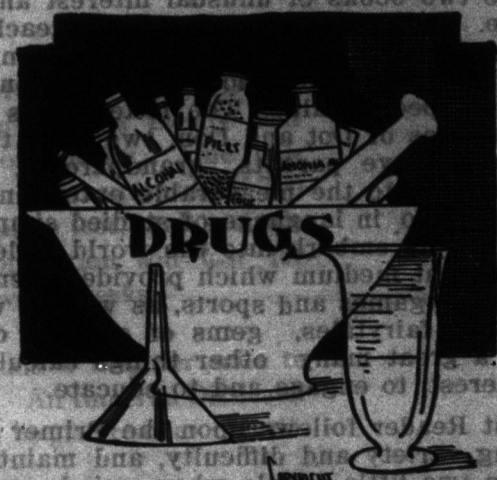
Poland Poland has finished the war with Soviet Russia with immense territory extending into Lithuania and the Ukraine, and 28 million inhabitants. Her situation is not very good however. Poland was established with two fronts, one against Bolshevik Russia, the other against Germany. These are however the states she must be friendly with for the sake of her trade—she is dependent on Russia for raw materials and on Germany for industrial products.

The Polish aristocracy is very powerful and chief owners of the land. The masses are bitterly discontented and typhus and kindred diseases have been rife among them. One-third of the land is said to be lying uncultivated.

Sir Wm. Gage Sir William Gage, the Toronto publisher who recently died, will be remembered for his fight against tuberculosis. In comparatively few years by his efforts as philanthropist and educationist he reduced by fifty percent the death rate from this disease in Canada. He was one of the first to insist on the importance of preventive measures.

The Canadian Government Merchant Marine during the summer inaugurated the Canadian-India Service from St. John, N. B. and Montreal across the Atlantic via the Red Sea. With the opening of the Pacific route early in January by the departure of S. S. Canadian Inventor from Vancouver for Singapore and Calcutta the C. G. M. M. has at last encircled the globe with regular freight services east and west.

Ignorance never settles question.—Disraeli.



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