

been published. There is an old and wise saying, "Let well enough alone," which applies to this matter, for the present system has given such general satisfaction that it has never been attacked. From an educational standpoint, we are unable to see what could be gained by the proposed change. It is certainly desirable that the clergy should be well represented on the Board of School Commissioners, as they now are, because they are eminently suited for the office by their training and experience and character. It is a matter for consideration whether a popular election would result in commissioners being appointed more highly qualified than those who have hitherto served in this very honourable and responsible office. Under the present system three protestant aldermen are elected as school commissioners by the City Council. When they were candidates for a seat in the City Council their qualifications for the position of school commissioner were not considered. It is open then to discussion whether a better selection would be made by the electors at large than is usually made by the City Council from its own members.

It is not desirable that the Board of School Commissioners should be periodically made up of members without experience in the office. While occasional changes may be serviceable, yet, as a rule, the efficiency of school administration necessitates continuity of system. Frequent alterations in the personnel and methods of a school injuriously obstruct the progress of the pupils. A school Board cannot be as efficient as is desirable unless some of its members have had years of experience as commissioners. It is not the intention to disturb the system of having Catholic representatives on the Catholic School Board and Protestants on the Protestant Board.

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TRUST AND INSURANCE COMPANIES.—The new Premier of Quebec, the Hon. Mr. Gouin, is much to be commended for using his influence with Private Bills Committee in regard to the provisions under which new insurance companies may be incorporated. The Committee has decided that the Bill of no insurance company shall be approved unless it provides for a paid-up capital of at least \$25,000, and a special deposit made with the Provincial Treasurer of a sum fixed by Order-in-Council, which will probably be \$25,000.

This is in accordance with the views and wishes of the Council of the Board of Trade. Credit is due to Mr. A. G. B. Claxton for his services in urging this policy upon the Private Bills Committee before which he appeared armed with a petition and letters from the principal insurance companies opposing the various attempts to obtain charters for

companies to transact all kinds of insurance on a paid-up capital of from \$5,000 to \$10,000 with making any deposits with the Government. A larger paid-up capital would have been more desirable, but the decision of the Quebec Government is a step in the right direction.

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THE HARBOUR BOARD.—The Harbour commissioners have doubtless a trying task in endeavouring to reconcile the various interests they directly or indirectly represent, which, at times, are apt to be conflicting. The views of some members of the Board are also apt to be contrary to those of other members. There are men who are naturally in opposition, they delight in being contrary to their fellows. Whether this class is represented on the Harbour Board we do not pretend to say, but, that there is an inordinate, a most unbusiness-like amount of disputation at the meetings is only too well known. The chairman seems to hold the reins too loosely. Were the daily papers to cease for a few months to report the proceedings of the Board it is highly probable that the business would make more rapid progress.

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THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—We are glad to observe that matters in connection with the Equitable are somewhat toning down. It is a thousand pities that the irritation, and very strong personal feelings amongst the directors and their friends, which seem to have been the cause of all the trouble, was not amicably arranged. Unfortunately, however, interested outsiders took a hand in the controversy and prevented what might, no doubt, have been arranged. That the company is absolutely solvent, even its worst enemies will not question, and the examination which is now being conducted under Mr. Frick, will demonstrate this statement. We shall not be surprised if the whole matter is arranged within the next thirty days at the outside, and that the whole directorate will retire. It would, however, be difficult to conceive of the Equitable without the association of its worthy president, Mr. J. W. Alexander, who, with others, will no doubt act in a similar capacity when the reorganization takes place. In the meantime, it is somewhat surprising to the ordinary public to be informed that the business of the company is larger than it was a year ago, which must be very gratifying to its friends and the agents. Of course, there are any amount of rumours as to who will be president, and several names are mentioned. These are simply all guesses.

It was well remarked to the writer that founder of the Equitable was the greatest living insurance organizer, as is manifested by the marvelous success of the company which he founded. Would