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The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

VOL. II, 19.

TORONTO, CANADA, July, 1901.

NR. 69.

EARLY STEPS.

Our continental rivals ar, fortunatly for themselves, les afraid of being calld faddy. The German government has introduced sevral important improvements in speling German, and the French government has recently folod suit by oficialy sanctioning simplification of some trublsome rules of French gramar. With a litl goodwill by boards of education and newspaper editors, it o't to be posibl to introduce minor changes, apreciable tho small, if no more than get rid of e in *have, live, give*, or superfluos l in *fill, fill, will, shall, mill, kill*, etc. Milions of superfluos leters ar ritn and printed evry day, and time and ink wasted must make a large sum. We cud, if inclined to rekles revolution, get rid of a-in *death, head*, etc., and go so far as risk a national calamity by droping gh from *plough*, and ugh from *though, thorough*.—HAROLD COX in *Westminster Gazette*(e).

In speling reform precept is good, practis is beter. Any expedient that removes shynes in practising wel-considerd reforms is a force. The mark of elision in tho' and thoro' is a good introduction. A hundred years ago the participi in -ed was frequently represented by 'd. Cud not timid reformers aply this transition form to certn N.E.A. spelings, as catalog', pedagog', even program'? This wud harden into riting hav', giv', ar', etc. THE HERALD uzes this in marking the place of the extinct gurgl ugh in mid-word [as o't for *ought*, bo't for *bought*, tho't for *thought*]. Eyes thus become uzed to forms that reason enjoins. A sign of the times is, American jurnals openly advocate reform; our publications temporize. I enclose £1—to be aplyed as yu think best.

England.

E. L. P.

A LITL CURAGE WANTED.

Imagin a strong intelligent man afraid to drop e from *have, give, live!* Is it worthy a race with such valor? Is valor ded? I cannot think it. Then sho it by riting: enuf, helth, erth, gest, askt, screend, det, sno, etc. Why rite unnecessary leters? We spend no more money than is needed; why waste time when we can save it by adopt-

ing shorter spelings? Ther is no law to prevent establishment of rational speling. Why fear to act acording to reason? Mr Herbert Gladston dared wear a straw hat during last sesion of parlement. Next sesion others wil folo his sensibl cours, and get rid of hevvy "chimney-pots" and oppressiv "felts." If hats subserv man, so shud speling. It required some curage by Gladston with light and helthy covering to face an asembly of aristocrats, but the comfort was worth efort—so wil eforts to popularize telefone, telegraf, foren, iland, geografy, definit, trubl, etc., benefit all who teach, read, rite or type. If the world laf, laf with it, laf it out of a bad habit of speling into a beter by riting: cours, luv, nolej, atmosfere, dwel, tel, sel, litl.

In this century let us all get rid of some of the lumber that encumbers our *own* speling. We can if we wil. If we don't, is it becaus we ar cowards?

H. DRUMMOND.

KEEPING IT UP—NO HALTING.

The Toronto World, a morning daily in its 22d year, is now the first daily that we no of to adopt as progressiv speling as it does. It is now in the second year of such practis. It bakt up its practis by nearly a colum as its first editorial one morning lately in which it said:

"Tho we stil stand alone among Canadian newspapers as practical advocats of speling reform, we ar by no means sorry or dissatisfied. We hav got over trepidation. . . . for our bold step, as results hav justified risk. Our reputation as advocat of reforms that tend to advance humanity has increast among progressiv, uptodate peopl, with no los of influence or prestige among ultra-conservativs. . . . A daily paper can take a hand in reforming speling without sacrificing circulation or influence. No newspaper need hesitate to folo *The World's* exampl for fear of losing cast or sufering pecuniary damage."

Its outlook is hopeful, even confident:

"Nothing seems more certn than adoption of reformd speling in a reasonabl time. This age is too practical to be handicapt forever by impedimerts to larning. Surely in this twentieth century men wil not cary crutches when they can move about so much more quikly without Our clumsy, burdsome and unscientific speling cannot long withstand clean-cut scientific methods of the new era."

After estimating that one-fourth the

annual cost (\$600,000) of Toronto's public schools is wasted in teaching the irregularities and monstrosities of spelling, it asks why \$150,000 a year should be sunk so in a single city? After showing that simplification of our wordforms will help spread the language, it concludes:

"After the metric system is introduced, the next great educational movement should concern itself with reformed spelling."

The *World's* editor, W.F. Maclean, M.P., is a rising man. Born in Ontario in 1854, he was educated in the public schools of Hamilton and in Toronto University (B. A., 1880). A born journalist, he was on the staff of the *Toronto Globe* and other newspapers till he established *The Toronto World* as an independent high-tariff paper with Conservativ leanings, especially since its editor entered politics. However, *The World* publishes a National Platform—a strong blending of conservativ-radicalism—in which every one finds several planks to commend. Maclean's election to the Canadian Parliament for his native North Wentworth but unsuccessfully. Next he nearly ousted ex-premier Mackenzie from East York, which includes part of Toronto. Since Mackenzie's death it has been represented by Maclean, returned in 1896, and in 1900 by 800 majority. He has a vigorous, practical, logical grasp of questions—far more so than the average would-be reformer, especially a radical one who defeats his own end and knocks his brains out against stubborn facts.

AROUSING JOURNALISTS AND PRINTERS.

Ontario's Nestor in advocacy of simplification of wordforms is Mr Wm H. Orr, principal of the Toronto branch of the Etina Life Insurance Co. When he saw the *World's* editorial mentioned above, it stirred the martial spirit of the war-horse, too long dormant, and he set out the *HERALD* for counsel before breakfast. He bought 100 copies of *The World*, marked them, and addressed them to as many publishers with this:

SIR, Having from early years (when publishing the Bowmanville Messenger, Oshawa Vindicator and Christian Offering) been a warm advocat of spelling reform, I delight in the practical step taken by the *Toronto World* as set forth in its leading editorial of this morning. I send you and other newspaper publishers a marked copy, and beg you to read the article carefully.

"Would it not be wise and beneficent if every publisher in Ontario would follow the brave opening thus made? Would it be too much to hope that you make a New Century move along this line? Give *The World* an encouraging word, and consider whether you cannot greatly forward the good work by using similar spelling in future?"

He should have marked this statement in the *World*, considering to whom it was addressed, so as "to rub it in" to a spot very sensitive—the pocket:

"If one-tenth the letters now used are unnecessary, we can save ten per cent on our paper bills. If the saving on paper were only five per cent, it would be enormous in aggregate. . . . Newspaper men will grasp the significance of reformed spelling when they realize that it would mean an increase of ten per cent in efficiency of composing-rooms. There would be a saving of six minutes in the hour in getting to press with late news."

Yet more, Mr Orr acts on the presumption that journalists and printers would follow the better way, alike from intelligence, inclination and interest, were they safe in assuming that public opinion would support them. Their own intelligence is hardly at fault. Journalists, as a rule, are alert and progressive, especially where, as in this case, heavy business interests are involved. It is the public who are ignorant and indifferent, and need educating. The journalist-printer can serve both his own interests and educate the public too by starting on a better course: "well begun is half done." Accordingly, Mr Orr had typewritten several copies of this plea. It is addressed to Toronto publishers and journalists:

"1. The deplorable and vexatious irregularity of English spelling has come about largely from printers, almost from Caxton down, having done as did their predecessors. Since Shakspeare, our language has changed much (as from letters becoming silent) with no corresponding change in spelling.

"2. 'The Rules of the Office' permit each master-printer to dictate which of two variant spellings shall be used in his printery.

"3. Concerted gradual extension of the 'Rules of the Office' is a feasible method to bring simpler spelling into use.

"4. Each expensive type-setting machine, its operator and the rest of the 'plant' now lose an hour a day putting in letters that are silent or useless. Or, the 'plant' will turn out as much work with ten per cent less of wear, tear and running expenses.

"5. A century ago useless k was dropped from music, traffick, logick, magick, etc., which now look odd with them. So,

"6. Retention of most irregularities and useless letters is matter of habit and prejudice, unsupported by either reason or authority, and specially condemned by linguists of highest authority.

"7. The *Toronto World* recently extended its already excellent 'Rules of the Office' by discarding catalogue, pedagogue, demagogue, prologue, decalogue, although, thorough, thoroughfare, through, throughout, programme, though (which require 104 letters), and substituted for them these shorter ones (requiring but 74:

catalog, pedagog, demagog, prolog, decalog, tho, altho, thoro, thorfare, thru, thruout, program

It is now in the second year's practice of them. It said (4th Feb. 1901), with much else, that it had lost neither influence nor prestige among ultra-conservatives, but had established this fact that 'the daily paper can take a hand in spelling reform without sacrificing circulation or influence. No newspaper need hesitate following *The World's* example for fear of losing cast or suffering pecuniary damage.' We ask you to extend the Rules of your Office so far as your judgment allows in direction of simplification of spelling. We think the time has come when public opinion will support a steady gradual advance.

"8. We are startled to notice that British trade supremacy seems threatened. This is largely due to being handicapped by old-fashioned ways of doing things, as reckoning money, weights and measures, and so much else of which the last but not least is

the gigantic evil we complain of. Its disappearance will help to prevent this calamity.

"9. Beside adopting the better and simpler way yourself, we ask you to use your influence in its favor in press associations, so as to lead to uniformity in this advance movement."

This plea, in petition form, seeks signatures of people of character, standing and influence, throughout this city. Obtaining such with much redines (but much trouble, too), our irrepressible Nestor intends to select a deputation from such signers and invade the sanctums of Toronto editors and publishers. Were they won over, Ontario at least is likely to follow. May victory perch on their banner! With editors and teachers working in line, the next generation should not only accept but demand more.

NEWS-NOTES AND COMMENTS.

—WANTED: All in favor of simplified spelling to send addresses to H. R. B., 232 Irving av., Chicago, Ill.

—"The Nature of Vowels" is a paper of eight pages by E. W. Scripture, Yale University, in the American Journal of Science for April. It is a study in Experimental (or machine) Phonetics. A gramophone plate slowly rotates so that its curve travels under a fine steel point whose movements are magnified by a system of levers making a tracing on smoked paper. Two main conclusions are reached: (1) Air movement in the mouth is a free vibration, not a forced one, thus agreeing with Willis' original theory in 1830, as against the overtone theory of Wheatstone, developed by Helmholtz, and commonly received; and (2) the vocal cords or bands, including thyroarytenoid muscles and their ligamentous edges, vibrate by compression, not the vibratory form common to most musical instruments. Cord movements are explosive openings or puffs; their motion may be like that of a cushion struck by a billiard ball (first suggested by Ewald).

—Uniform German Orthography is to be bro't about. At any rate a conference of experts sent by each German state is to meet in Berlin this summer for that purpose. The King of Wuertemberg is at bottom of it. Uniform (or fixed) spelling is indispensable to a national literature (as we think, planks 14, 15). Germans get so far ahead of us in matters scientific that it need be no news if they have this accomplished while we yet rub our sleepy eyes Rip Van Winkle fashion! Why this serpent trail of slowness and unprogressiveness ever found over everything English?

—Referring to report on Variant Spellings mentioned below, Mr Blackmer writes from Oak Park, Ill., "Your report is very valuable, far ahead of report on twelve words by Am. Nat'l Ed'l Assoc'n. I trust Prof. March will embody it in the forthcoming number of 'Spelling.' That report should have wide circulation in U. S. and Britain. It should stir up spelling reformers there. No pupil in school or out should be marked or 'plucked' for spelling a word in either of the ways therein indicated. If we show that a word is spelled in more than one way without change of pronunciation and without 'destroying' it as some falsely claim, we have established a great principle. We want to break down the 'sanctity' that clings to riven words."

—"Mispronunciation and Mid-Classdom" is an article of five pages by Agnes Grote in the Westminster Review for March. Agnes tells us about "words the pronunciation of which constitutes the hall-mark of the classes. . . . Any one saying gurl [gɜrl] is beyond the pale—the gateless barrier dividing without hope of appeal the

sheep from the goats." A book, for instance, becomes barely readable if 'a' instead of 'an' is put before 'hotel.' There is much of this 'society' nonsense both as to orthoepy and vocabulary, the Agnes "refers not to silly jargon affected by certain of the smart set, especially the wud-be smart." We mention all this merely to raise the query as to where to draw the line on this society pronunciation, and to ask wherein and how far orthoepists are influenced by this, consciously or not. Like fashions, these changes are not of natural evolution, nor put on any rational basis, but vary by whim and caprice. Yet they have to be taken into account.

—"Minim i (with its variant j) is the worst and most anomalous letter of the twenty-five. Every other letter is unbroken and self-contained—i alone is in two parts, one of them a contemptible little dot, a nuisance to founder and printer, always flitting off or snapping off. It is no part of the letter—there is no dot to Greek i or Saxon i,—but a diacritic of medieval scribes. Early typographers, imitating handwriting, adopted the superfluous dot, and we have it still." So writes and prints R. C. Harding, of Wellington, New Zealand, in the Practical Printer, a trade journal, Saint Louis, Mo. THE HERALD man rises right here to insist that the time has come when both i and i shud be well differentiated and retained in the alphabet. From Roman i we wud then have three forms (i, i, j), as from Roman v four (v, w, u, v) sprung, and to each is assigned a perfectly definite fonetic value.—Don't abolish i, differentiate and retain.

—"Is it *ei* or *ie* in such a word?" is often asked by the puzzled speller. To answer it, Dr Willard, a scholarly Chicagoan, has examined the 2600 to 3000 words involved with exhaustive care and "presented results in succinct, intelligible rules so plain that he who runs may read." Get his pamphlet (price, 15 cents) from the Ben Franklin Co., 232 Irving av., Chicago, Ill. Its title is "On the Use of the Digraphs EI and IE."

VARIANT SPELLINGS:

AN EDUCATIONAL GRIEVANCE.

When the Ontario Educational Association met in April, 1900, we had something to say (see p. 59) on the "Outlook for Better Spelling." It was the best to begin stirring in the Public School section, as in public schools so much time is given to learning to read and spell, though this is kept up in dictation, composition, and so on, even until a university course ends, and is not mastered then. In concluding, a grievance was pointed out: that of variant spellings. E. g., one pupil-candidate for promotion is marked down for leaving u out of *honor*, while another before a different examiner is marked down for putting it in! The autocratic examiner is guided by whim, habit, prejudice or intolerance. This brings the spelling question "within the sphere of" practical education. When it comes to a question of marks you can always count on Ontario teachers pricking up ears and opening sleepy eyes, so well in hand as they held by the Minister of Education. Glittering generalities, though barked up by conclusiv arguments, excite languid interest. Plainly a sensitive spot had been touched. Accordingly it was no great surprise to have this resolution passed after the attentive hearing

givn us and our plea:

"This department of the Ont. E. As'n aproves the movement for beter speling as outlined by Dr Hamilton, and a committee (A. Hamilton, M. A., M. D., L. T. Locheed, M. A., Cha's G. Fraser) prepare a list of words comonly spelt in more than one way, indicating where (a) two forms ar equally acceptabl; (b) one is preferd; also, a word list for which aproved spelings ar suggested by pronunciation, derivation, or analogy.

"Teachers ar requested to send the sec'y of the department words wisht included.

"The Minister of Edu'n is askt to publish this wordlist among teachers, that it be discust at next meeting with view to adoption."

The committee went to work with a wil. In the Century diction'y it found a list of 1783 "disputed spelings" which with lists in Worcester's and other dict's wud make a list aproaching 2500 like words. Filologic societies hav joind to recomend 3572 amended spelings, not counting derivativ words. The Geografic societies work in acord to ad more. The U. S. Board on geografic names hav publisht a First Report to end of 1891 of which pages 11 to 56 ar filld with names and coments; a suplem't givs additions (pages 5 to 36) from 1892 to 1897; a later consolidated report prepared is not yet printed oing to a fit of economy or some political hitch at Washington; a great diversity in Scripture proper names is superseded by uniformity in the Revized Version; the chemical section of the Amer. Asoc'n for Advancement of Sience strugld for four years from 1887 with the pronunciation and speling of chemical terms with report of progres to each annual meeting (one of which was the Toronto one) and agreed in 1891 to ad large numbers of improved spelings in chemistry which forthwith went into use; Sir W. Hunter did a great work in puting place-names in India in Romanized form, geografic societies contenting themselves by refering to Hunter's Gazeteer for Indian place-names; the British Admiralty and the Navy Department at Washington hav workt in remarkabl acord with one another and with the aforesaid U. S. Board; Japanese names ar largely in order in a Roman dres, thanks to Hepburn and coadjuters, a leading one of whom was Rev. C. S. Eby, an Ontario man; Chinese names ar mainly in caos; Aboriginal names in pan-America mark places, rivers, lakes, etc., and yet vary greatly—to rectify them is a work no Hepburn or Hunter has yet undertaken, tho Capt. Dwight H. Kelton and late Father Edward Jacker made a good begining.

In this superabundance of variant spelings (perhaps 25,000 in number) the committee in a six-page report (kindly printed by the Educational Department—a few copies yet to be had) decided to rule out reformd speling and cleav to what is es-

tablist in good, respectabl uzage:

"A complete list wud include almost 20,000 words; and such list, with suitabl notes, coments and explanations, of filologic nature, might be undertaken by the Education Department, and wud make a valuabl work of reference for teachers and students. But, considering that too voluminos for this report, we include such words only as ocur frequently in general literature and the Ontario readers, with a few geografic names. This list might be made more complete by provincial teachers co-operating and communicating with the secretary. We include in our list none but those sanctiond by respectabl uzage, avoiding whimsical or capricios forms,"

"What ar yu going to do about it?" was answered: *Do like the printers:*

"Evry large printery has its 'Rules of the Office, indicating speling folod (to which each shal conform while) in that office. They comprise clases of words supplemented by a wordlist. For each scool we suggest such rules and list carefully chosen by responsibl peopl connected with the scool. Scools of a township, county, or province might agree on these as

RULES OF THE SCOOOL

1. Write e for æ and œ.
2. Omit u in -our, as 'honor.'
3. Do not dubl the consonant in weak syllabls of verbal derivativs, as 'traveler.'
4. Spel: 'center', 'fiber', 'meter', etc.
5. '-ize' if of Greek derivation.
6. Omit h in -burgh; as, Harrisburg.
7. Scripture names as in Revized Version.
8. Omit apostrofe in such names as St. Marys, St. Catharines.
9. Wordlist: adz, altho, ax, ay (yes), aye (ever), by and by, by-law, carbid, chlorin, etc., etc.

Rules and wordlist may be enlarged within the limits of the wordlist in Appendix to this report.

The Appendix was four pages dubl-column giving two or more fórms of words in more comon use. It was prefaced by "Examiners ar to accept either form." It gave behind-the-age peopl a chance to supersede rule 2 above by "Retain u in -our, as *honour*." They had the option of making what rules they chose. This very tolerant or optional method the committee tho't preferabl, hoping that "the comonsens of most" wud lead aright.

When this report came up for adoption in April last, before a ful meeting, the consensus of those presnt was decidedly against having dubl or tripl forms before them, wishing *one* definitely prescribed. So the report was referd bak to a committee increast by adition of Messrs. Macalister, Gray (Toronto), Musgrave (Wingham) and Jordan (Prescot). They alterd the report, stil more amended in committee-of-all. Rules 5 and 6 wer dropt, and the appendix reduced to a list of about 300 words all coverd by the last rule above. Thus amended, this report of the Public Scool section shud come up before the ful As'n.

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