

CHIGNECTO POST AND BORDER

SACKVILLE, N. B., APRIL 11, 1895.

IN THE MEAN TIME—WHAT.

Calm, deliberate, and earnest thought, the better to understand all the bearings of the question that is looming up before the electors of Canada. What is the question? This. What course shall be pursued by the people of this country in relation to the very best possible Canadian citizenship. A general election has been postponed because a comparatively small minority in one of the youngest provinces of the Dominion claims that its vested rights have been interfered with by the majority. Just how to define these rights may not be easy. We are sure they do not come under the head of personal or property rights for British law makes no difference in this regard between majorities or minorities. The personal and property rights of minorities in Manitoba are as sacred as those of majorities.

It is worthy to be remembered that the decision which has stayed proceedings and allowed the minority in Manitoba a hearing was given by governing bodies, the product of evolution of a civilization possible only in a country where the will of the majority is the law of the land. This is not an argument against allowing majorities to rule.

If the principles contended for by the people of Manitoba were ever tested on a scale large enough to make a comparison as to results between the two some date might be arrived at to enable those interested to reach a decision as to which principle is the better one for Canadians to adopt, the one held by the minority or the one held by the majority in Manitoba.

Without more than referring to Spain, Italy, Portugal, Ireland, Mexico, and the smaller States of South America as representing the clerical principles and Scotland, England, Germany, and the United States, the principles for which the majority in Manitoba are contending, let us come nearer home and take Canada including the oldest colony of Great Britain, as New Brunswick and separate schools (denominational) are according to law. Neither the status of education there nor the material development of the province is satisfactory.

Coming to the Maritime Provinces of Canada, P. E. Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, here we find free unsectarian schools, and here an educational test reveals a most satisfactory condition as to scholarship, morality, and good citizenship. In New Brunswick when the present law was put on the Statute book a very considerable minority of the inhabitants were opposed to national schools. That minority has made more progress in political development and good citizenship since the introduction of free schools than in all its previous history since 1783, when New Brunswick was first formed into a province. Going on to Quebec, here we have the ideal system of the Manitoba minority in its purity. Quebec is the oldest province in the Dominion. Its settlement dates back to the seventeenth century. How does it stand relatively as to percentage of those who can read and write? How in relation to material advancement and good government?

The comparison is against Quebec. It is not necessary to specify but separate schools do not show to advantage. Ontario comes next. Here the principle of national schools is the dominant one and here we have one of the most if not the most progressive province in Canada. There are a few separate schools in Ontario but they are not numerous enough to operate to any extent against the free unsectarian school. Manitoba comes next and the public know the efforts she is making to start with a free unsectarian school system.

Let it might be thought the writer is prejudiced against the church that stands for the clerical schools, and the nationality that most largely represents that church in Canada we can honestly say that the older we grow the more we see to admire in the French character and in reference to the Catholic Church, we believe we have more faith in its stability than many of its own adherents.

THE ESSAY AND THE ADDRESS.

An essayist in last week's Post sought to make capital against the N. P. because there has been a decrease in the number of farmers in Canada in the last ten years, and the fact was expressed in such a way as to lead to the supposition that the government had set up some "policy" to deprive farmers of their land. The whole essay was a kind of literature that might be interesting to the writer and some of his friends, but it is not in the interest of farmers or of good government.

Personally we believe and have always believed that farmers should be found in large numbers both in the Local and Dominion Parliament and we hold further that any leading industry in the state that is not fairly represented in the legislature, by men who are thoroughly conversant with the practical working of that industry—its interests will not be properly looked after or safeguarded. In this respect the agricultural interest has suffered, and so far as the Patrons can in a straight-forward manner remedy this state of things, we are ready to give them our sympathy and assistance. The principle of trying to lift yourself up by pulling somebody down never has and never will commend itself to the best instincts of

humanity. One fails to see how calling the Senate a "relic of barbarism" or a "past house of political soundings" will help to get farmers in the legislature or help them better to understand why the principle of a Senate has come to be looked upon by some as unnecessary in the government of a country. "Political soundings" rascals, felons, prison cells, political masters are words and expressions perhaps easily used, but are they the right kind of language to adopt by those whose aim it professes to be to get the "policy" of the law established on a nobler and a purer basis? It rather reminds one of the British soldier who swore like a pirate that he was ready to fight for his religion any time.

The decrease of farmers so long as their heads are not chopped off by the guillotine, and so long as the goods which are their special business, to produce are in supply greater than the demand—does not seem to be an unmixed evil. The present quotations of all the leading staples would seem to indicate there are still enough farmers left with the blessing of Providence to save the country from famine. If the N. P. has had any influence to decrease the number of producers and increase the number of consumers—other things being equal—the tendency of the policy must have been in the direction of raising the price of produce or of helping to keep it from dropping to a lower level. To farmers this can scarcely be a complaint against the N. P.

The gross income from a properly cultivated farm is larger now taking one year with another—than ever in the history of the country. Putting these two facts together the farmers' present condition does not seem to be seriously injured by the N. P. It is not to be expected that the farmer who has been drawing on the plant food of his farm—the accumulation of centuries—year after year should find farming as profitable as when he was cultivating the virgin soil and if he decides to give up the business it scarcely ought to be a charge against the government that they give him an opportunity of making a comfortable living in another line of life.

That prairie land has been opened up in the west and thereby the price of produce kept low in the east is surely not a reason for abusing public men who are not farmers.

That the price of farm machinery has been reduced nearly fifty per cent in the last ten or twelve years does not seem to be a reason of itself for becoming a Patron of Industry or for condemning the N. P.

The policy of bonusing railways so that farmers fifty or a hundred miles from a market can successfully compete with the farmer who lives five or ten miles away, does not seem to be a policy that would reduce the number of farmers or lead them to oppose railways. It has always seemed to us that whoever is benefited by railways the farmer who lives at a distance from market, and has anything to sell must always be a great gainer. Of course it is possible to pay too "dear for your whistle." The farmer who has to haul his produce twenty miles would have to pay a very heavy tax indeed, not to be benefited by a railroad.

If the essayist had shown any indications in the past that additions could be made to the source of his knowledge we would take great pleasure in helping him to an understanding why there has been a decrease in the rural population not only of Canada but of all civilized countries in the last ten or fifteen years but when a vessel is full it is useless to attempt to put more into it so we drop the subject for the present.

EDUCATION.

Mr. G. U. Hay has been lecturing before the students of the University of Fredericton on education and said some very sensible things as might be expected from the editor of the Education Review and principal of the Victoria School in St. John. Mr. Hay seems to think the weakness of the present school practice lies in the direction of plugging or expecting too much work from students, rather than teaching the principle upon which all well-done literary work is accomplished. Very much the same mistake might be made that is made by the master mechanic who judges of the apprentice's value to him from the standpoint of the amount of work done rather than from the apprentice's standpoint, the principle upon which the work is done and the ability to do it. Mr. Hay thinks the following questions are worthy for solution:

Do the schools today train the individual to think and make "the best of all his powers"? Is the teacher of the text book the potent force in the school? Is there a waste of time and energy or are the results commensurate with the efforts put forth? He thinks children may receive impressions by the force without adequate expression. There may be layer after layer of facts from this study and that. There may be processes and rules and dates and vocabularies buried out of sight by succeeding layers of processes and rules and dates and vocabularies with never an earthquake to shake up the mass to expose as mother earth does—at times at least—some fossil remains of these early impressions. Is there a system in the acquisition of knowledge? A system that links fact with fact, process with process, that makes deduction and expression easy and natural ready for use, not days after but on the instant.

This is the kind of knowledge that gives power. Mr. Hay thinks for the future of our education there are many hopeful signs. From the primary school to the university there is a steadily growing band of faithful teachers animated with a strong sense of duty and inspired with a purpose to overcome every obstacle that lies in the way of the proper education of the individual. There is evidence of the need of a broader culture among teachers, and they are pressing forward to obtain it. "The student may

forget rules, forget facts, but if he feels that he gains power that character is being formed, that he is helped to distinguish between right and wrong the truth and the false, that he can interpret truth for himself from the life about him and from books, that from the careful interpretation of one of nature's secrets he has the key that will open all, that from the careful study and interpretation of one theorem of geometry, of one good book of English literature he gains the power over many.

If he is made to feel this then his school or college an alma mater indeed. In the closing paragraph Mr. Hay says we do not know what questions of a social or political nature are to be settled. But we do know that if they are settled wrong they will entail misery. How important it will be to settle them right, and where is to come the character, the training, the intelligence that is to settle them if not from the training in our public schools? The above extracts are taken from Mr. Hay's most excellent paper with the hope they may lead some one to read the whole address who may have overlooked it.

Botsford Parish Schools.

While Westmorland is the smallest parish in the county Botsford is the most completely agricultural. There are several "Corners" in the parish but not a business centre of any dimensions. Outside of a few isolated merchants at Bristol and Bayfield, Shediac, Port Elgin, Sackville, and Amherst are the trading points for the Botsford farmers.

There are twenty school districts in the parish, and there are but two or three vacant schools this winter. We do not know that there is a superior or a graded school in the parish. They are all classified as miscellaneous. The amount drawn from the Provincial Exchequer for the support of the schools is \$2,500.

C. H. Mitten is in charge of the school in the district nearest to Port Elgin. This is his second term. The school is well supplied with maps but there is no library. The buildings and grounds are well kept. The enrollment of the school is 36, average 30.

Mr. M. A. Wall is the teacher at Botsford. He reports the school as well supplied with maps and school furniture; the house comfortable; the out-buildings and grounds all right, but no treplanting done; no school library. Enrollment 40, average, 25. Mr. Wall has been teaching continuously for forty-six years, and thinks he is entitled to a pension of there was such a fund and if length of service gave a teacher the right to draw out of it, Mr. Wall would surely have a claim.

Mr. W. Herd teaches at the Upper Cape; Mr. Charles Ames at Cape Spear, and Mr. Robert Ward at Tormentine. Mr. M. B. Welch, the teacher at Bayfield, reports the schoolhouse fairly comfortable; a globe and maps but no library. He is preparing two students for Normal School. Enrollment 40, average 26 1/2.

The teachers at Lower Emigrant, Melrose, Upper Emigrant, and Oulton's Corner are Mr. John Brown, Miss Harrie, Miss Murphy, and Mr. A. M. Goodwin, respectively. Miss Sarah Fowler has been in charge of the school at Murray Road which had been vacant since the new year. There is no school this winter at Murray's Corner, nor at Chapman's Corner.

The school at Cadman's Corner is in charge of Mr. R. S. Johnson who reports the schoolhouse comfortable and well supplied with maps but no library; out-buildings in good order; enrollment 25, average 22.

At Peacock, the teacher is Mr. Stephen Peacock. Mr. Howard Avar is the teacher at Great Shemogue. He reports the house and furniture good; appliances fair; enrollment 42, average, 28. Mr. Avar has been teaching in this school for three years, as Shemogue is his native place, this fact gives pretty conclusive evidence that he is a good teacher and would succeed anywhere. Mr. R. B. Atkinson teaches the Woodside school. He reports a scarcity of maps and school furniture generally, with no out-buildings and no library. Enrollment, 28; average, 19 1/2. The trustees in this district should not to it that the children have as fair a chance in the race for knowledge as the children of other schools and so provide their school with as many of the modern appliances for education as they can possibly afford. An energetic teacher can often do a great deal in influencing the trustees towards making expenditures in this direction.

It is a matter of regret that the schools in this district have not more generally taken advantage of the generous offer of the government and furnished themselves with good libraries. So far as heard from a library is not reported.

In looking over the schools in the parishes of Botsford and Westmorland, it was a surprise to find that while the percentage of female teachers in the provinces as a whole is very much the highest, in these two parishes there is a very large percentage of male teachers.

There is a school at the Portage and another at Little Cape from which no report was received and the teachers names are not known at this office.

St. Joseph's College.

April 4.—The College and all pertaining to the welfare of this Institution, has sustained an irreparable loss when Professor Ames, the able and successful headmaster, died. Within the last few years, Mr. Ames has made himself a prime favorite with all. His unaffected manners and obliging ways have won the hearts of the professors and students, and they can only console themselves with the thought that what was their loss is gain for others. His transcendent ability as an organizer and director was recognized by his colleagues, so much so, that the I. O. M. Society, the most influential association among us, wisely elected him as their worthy President. This society, which has for its aim the furtherance of the literary powers of the members, found an excellent exponent of its principles in the person of Mr. Ames.

To show their appreciation of his sterling qualities, the members of the I. O. M. Society tendered him a banquet on the eve of his departure. The apartments of the society were gorgeously decorated for the occasion, and the banners and flags of different nations, and the walls were beautified with inscriptions and mottoes, such as, "Sic Semper Parvulus," "Invincible," etc. Before partaking of the good things served, an address, embodying the sentiments of the members towards Mr. Ames, was read, and his well for the future, was wished by Mr. Ames, who was a pious and consistent of the following:

FIRST COURSE.
Macaroni Soup Oysters (steamed).
SECOND COURSE.
Soft shelled Crabs Lobster Salad.
THIRD COURSE.
Broiled Chicken, Roast Turkey, Roast Beef.
FOURTH COURSE.
Canva-Buck Duck Ham and eggs.
VEGETABLES.
Corn, Sweet Potatoes, Sliced Tomatoes.
SALADS.
Pickles, Chow-chow, Ketchup.
DESSERTS.
Pineapple Pudding, Pyramid Pudding.
Charlotte Russe.
Mottio Pie, Lemon Pie, I. O. M. Pie, Pain de Savoie, Chocolate Eclair, Oranges, Raisins, Olives, Coffee, Tea.

After the dinner order had been damped, and the conversation of the delicious had diminished in violence, the covers were removed and toasts were next in order. The first one "Our country, our country," was proposed by the speaker, and was responded to by the departing President. In the course of his remarks, he acknowledged that he was somewhat overcome by such goodness. He intended to make a long speech, but the address of such friends, and the remembrance of the many favors they had conferred on him, completely overcame him, and he resigned to the fact that he was not a good speaker, but he would, in future, would prove his thankfulness. He resumed his seat amid tremendous cheering. Mr. MacIntosh, the President of the I. O. M. Society, then rose and responded with his poem entitled "An Ode to Mr. G." His poem, as usual, was of a lofty character and showed depth of feeling and sincerity.

Mr. Whelan proposed the toast "Our coming B. A.'s." Mr. Murphy was in his happiest strain in answering, and treated the members with remarks of a humorous and original character. He then proposed the toast "Our departing President." It was unanimously decided to bring the banquet to a close.

Oscar Wilde Disgraced.

The suit of Oscar Wilde v. the Marquis of Queensbury came to a sudden and unexpected termination Friday morning shortly after the third day of the trial. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty, coupled with the statement that the justification set up as a defense by the Marquis of Queensbury was in substance, and in fact, and that the statement complained of was published for the public good. Later Wilde was arrested and held in custody.

The Marquis of Queensbury had written on a card that Wilde was guilty of immoral practices and a corrupter of the young; Wilde brought suit which resulted as above.

Most observers of English character would have declared it impossible to arouse the phlegmatic conscience and emotions of a nation that the popular intensity as is manifesting itself in all classes. The horror, the loathing, the anger which the revelations in connection with the Wilde-Queensbury case have caused can be compared only with one of those whirlwinds of passion which once in a few decades sweep over a nation and leave behind them a trail of ruin and devastation. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty, coupled with the statement that the justification set up as a defense by the Marquis of Queensbury was in substance, and in fact, and that the statement complained of was published for the public good. Later Wilde was arrested and held in custody.

Canada Gazette contains the following: The Eighth Princess Louise New Brunswick Hussars—A Troop Captain George S. Munnell resigns his commission in the Hussars on the 1st of April, 1895. He was born in St. John's, N. B., and has been in the Hussars for over 20 years. He was promoted to the rank of Captain on the 1st of April, 1895. He was promoted to the rank of Major on the 1st of April, 1895. He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel on the 1st of April, 1895. He was promoted to the rank of Colonel on the 1st of April, 1895. He was promoted to the rank of Major General on the 1st of April, 1895. He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General on the 1st of April, 1895. He was promoted to the rank of General on the 1st of April, 1895. He was promoted to the rank of Field Marshal on the 1st of April, 1895. He was promoted to the rank of Commander in Chief on the 1st of April, 1895. He was promoted to the rank of Governor General on the 1st of April, 1895. 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