

OUR SCHOOL INSPECTOR'S GRAMMAR, ETC.

There is an old saying that tailors wear poorer coats than other men, and that no mans shoes are half so tattered as the shoemakers: on the same principle, we suppose, we naturally find that our School Inspectors whose trade is to see that teachers and scholars write elegantly and well, display shabbiness, bad English and bad grammar in their own compositions.

The new Inspectors, all, save one, have written lengthy reports to the Education Office, and some of these truly do exhibit wonderful samples of style and elegance. Glancing through them yesterday, pencil in hand, we noted a few cases in point, and marked them down for posterity. Reading over Mr. Valentin A. Landry's report, we find that in speaking of the laxity of Trustees he says "In some districts these officers discharge their duties nobly!! but in others much culpable carelessness and indifference is manifested." Of course if Mr. Landry saw a pupil make such a blunder as this in grammar, he would not allow him to be classified; but then we suppose the grammar is intended only for the boys, not for the Inspectors. However for the benefit of the Inspector we may say when the subject of a sentence is made up of two or more nouns, joined by "and" a plural verb is required.

Mr Landry then ruminates over the whole pastures of education, in realizing as he goes. Speaking of Trustees' visits he says, "If the latter (the teacher) is lax or inefficient those stated visits (by the trustees) will prove an excellent stimulus." A new way of improving an "inefficient" teacher, is to "stimulate" him. Now you might stimulate a "lax" or remiss teacher, but Inspector Landry is the first who is able to cure an "inefficient" one by stimulants. Speaking of the troubles arising from boundary questions the Inspector begins a paragraph thus, "Much ill feeling, and animosity is also displayed" etc. The Inspector ought to borrow a grammar—as some little knowledge of the rudiments of English grammar would be convenient for a School Inspector

Inspector Smith of District No. 3 is also a delightful writer. Speaking of teachers having local licenses, he begins his explanation in this elegant fashion, "I found that there was quite a number of teachers at work etc." Perhaps Mr. Smith thought his report would read well if he hadn't some little slang in it. In another place he speaks of "quite a sum of money." He also gravely tells us "that reading is one of the greatest source of information." Well now, but is not that a wonderful statement! Any other writer in his senses would say it was the greatest.

He thinks people ought to have entertainments in the school houses in the evenings, that by this means a library could be collected and "have the books, he says, "Not only would the young become educated and intelligent, but the old as well." Enough a poor old farm of 70 becoming all at once "educated and intelligent" from having a half dozen books in a school house library. It is evident the Board of Education will so want to see about building a Lunatic Asylum in connection with the Normal School. And thus he winds up:

"And now I would tender my most sincere thanks to R. Wilson, Esq., and R. D. Robinson, Esq., for the kindness and courtesy shown me and for the valuable information given me on subjects intimately connected with my inspectorial work." Observe you, he thanks Messrs Wilson and Robinson, but he forgets to say from whom he received the "kindness and courtesy," &c. Exit poor Inspector Smith!

Inspector Wetmore has this elegant sentence in his report. "One school in No. 6 Hampstead, was not visited on account of my being detained a day at O.P. by high winds, and thus missing the appointment."

Everybody of course can see how necessary the "and" is here, and how it assigns two reasons, as it one were not enough for not visiting the poor old school. He observes certain defects among his schools, but adds, "I trust to see an improvement in this matter at the time of my visits this year." If several times may be called a "line," there is no reason why several "visits" should not be called a visit. He gave local licenses only in such cases as where "trained teachers could not be got to go." This is a sublime composition!

Nor does Mr Oakes "scape the accusation." He is speaking of contumacious class-rooms, just procured and says, "This is a wise provision, of necessity &c., as it will appear when

the schools shall be opened." He forgot just then that there was a future perfect tense,—or he would have written, "shall have been opened." He chides the teacher's for not having certain supplementary books, and one of these "Herbert Spencer on Education." Now Herbert Spencer is a man who does not believe in a personal God, but says what we call a Deity is a Force underlying nature, belonging to matter, and with nothing Spiritual about it. He laughs at the term God, and uses instead the term Unknown. Would Mr Oakes have such a man's book as a 'chart for the teacher.' We have not time to deal with such absurdities as the "quality of the knowledge acquired by the pupils under certain conditions, &c., and shall let Mr Oakes by for the present.

Mr Eldon Mullin writes a fair report but when he tells us he hopes that "the next few years will witness a revival of Educational activity," we are inclined to think he looks upon Education in the province as having dropped off, as having once been what it ought to be; for a "revival" in this sense would mean a return to the old conditions not a stirring up de novo. No school inspector should be without a pocket dictionary.

Inspector Gannece writes a report, rich in figures of speech, and altogether presents a cleverly wrought out document. But his composition is here and there bad—by which we mean that he misuses several words and overstrains construction in a few cases. For example he says "It must be our aim to lose our inferior teachers." Had he said it should be our aim to get rid of such teachers we might allow his language. A "losing" is the result of accident in a general sense, and how Inspector Gannece would have the profession aim at an accident is as hard of comprehension as the fifteen puzzle. He then speaks of some children "who could read no farther than the fourth book," and of some, in certain subjects having "been carried farther than others—when he ought to have known that elegant writers of this age would have written "farther." Farther refers to material distances, e. g., he is further ahead on his journey than I am; further refers to social, moral or intellectual progress or distances. Hear how Longfellow puts it— "But to set that each to-morrow, Finds us further than to-day."

Then Mr Gannece speaks of having granted local licenses. He says, "Among the English speaking portion of my territory, I granted only 3." From which we must infer that Inspector Gannece "territory" actually "speaks" and speaks "English" at that. "Cheaper in his salary" is how he expresses one teacher underbid by another. He calls the Educational Center the "nucleus of a professional library," and Inspector Mullen calls it the "nucleus of a professional library," showing that both may have written this portion of their reports in the same room—perhaps in the Education Office. Such composition as this, would be bad enough for an Editor, or a stupid boy of 12, but for school inspectors, it is nothing short of sublime.

MOR PROPHECIES.

In his speech on last Friday evening Sir Leonard Tilley showed that as regards the lumber interest, the increased duties on articles of consumption affected by the Tariff amounted to less than one per cent on the value of the product.

Mr. J. B. Snowball posed before the House of Commons as an expert in the lumber business. He knew all about it; and he said that the N. P. would ruin the lumber trade. He again referred to his invoices, and it was pathetic to hear him lament over the great increase that was to take place in the poor lumberman's blankets and bed-ticking. But with all the other in crests the lumber interest has again become prosperous, and the N. P. has not burdened it to any appreciable extent. It has felt the impetus that the N. P. has given to all the industries of the country, and our lumbermen never had better hopes than they have today. On his own ground our representative has proved his incapacity. He as a politician is a complete and utter failure. In 1879 the lumber exports

amounted to \$14,000,000

Last year to 18,000,000

So that a balance of 4 million of dollars in favor of the lumber interest in one year is the kind of ruin the N. P. has wrought to that important industry.

We need not wonder then that our prophetic member should this winter, avoid the making of another speech, by going to Europe while the House was in session. The utter collapse of his prophecies must have disheartened him. The lum of prosperity which is now resounding through the Dominion, and which he compared to the hum of a hornet, must now sound to him his death knell as a politician. He has, foolishly enough, placed himself on record, and his prophetic speeches in the light of passing events, only serve to make him the laughing stock of the county. He deserted his seat in 1881, and we now prophesy and our prophecy will prove true, that the people will depose him in 1883—Great is Grim and Snowball is its prophet!

PUBLIC REPORTS.

CROWN LANDS.

We have not been enabled to day to give any of our space to Hon. Michael Adam's Report on Crown Lands for the year past, but we shall do so in other issues.—The report is an entire departure from the old beaten track where every pig, and every calf, and every goat that the settler on free grants had, was duly set down, and every head of cabbage, and bushel of potatoes raised, accurately accounted for. Now we have all the information necessary respecting the settlements, but instead of a hundred pages of "tables," we have a report from Professor Sheldon and Mr Sparrow on the Agricultural resources of the province, papers by Mr E. Jack on iron and antimony, of vast importance, and long papers on the quality and extent of farming and lumber lands near ourselves, careful and practical information on our hemlock, an article on forest fires, &c. &c. But better than all is the tale of a surplus of over \$30,000 for the year, which it tells. We congratulate the Surveyor General, but shall not further anticipate the report.

EDUCATION REPORT.

We deal with this at some length today on our 3rd page.

THE CHIEF COMMISSIONERS REPORT.

Shows the prudent and intelligent hand of Mr Landry in the Board of Works Department. Some figures, etc., in next issue.

TEMPORA MUTANTU

Last winter the St John Sun was ready to open a religious war if the Government made any changes in Educational management, now he is out in war against the system himself. For pity sake, if change is to come, let it come from proof that what is complained of is perverting the intention of the system, and above all let us have assurance of this from gentlemen of culture who understand something of the principles of education. We believe a change will soon be necessary but we do not want uneducated men for pilots.

Last winter A G Blair was watching for the government to make the slightest change in educational management, that he might run around and whisper poisonous words in the ears of Protestant members. Had the changes he seeks himself now, been affected last winter by the government, we could hear nothing but the "religious howl" today through our Province.

When the Government made the abolition of the Council an item in their policy, Blair tried secretly to prejudice members against the abolition, and in the Assembly, through the direct discussion on the subject and the various incidental references to it since, had never favored abolition till now, when he puts it as a plank in his scow policy.

To show the danger of Blair's "reduction" policy, suppose there are four or five small counties in each of which there is only one representative: That one may be rich and influential—in which case he would have a monopoly of the politics of his county, be a Czar in a small way. No county should have less than two representatives, and it was a great mistake to divide Victoria County, for he reasons named. We gave other reasons in the case of large counties containing several denominations.

One of the Governor General's A. D. C's., was late for one of the balls at Rideau Hall a couple of weeks ago. He was asked why he was not there in time, and replied he "prefereed waiting until the cattle snow was ovaw."

England is wrangling now with about half the world—with Ireland by her doors, with the Afghans on their icy hills, with King Coffee and his Ashantees, with the Transvaal and his Boers,—and with who not? And all this goes on under the policy of "peace at any price."

It is rather sensible looking to reduce the number of our representatives fixed when our population was less than it is now, and in view of still increasing population.

It is said in Constantinople that Russia has proposed to the Powers that Crete be ceded to Greece instead of the territory in Epirus allotted to her by the conference.

Messrs Blake and Mills go to the North West this summer. The North West then, is to be invaded by the enemy?

The cablegrams from Great Britain and Ireland on the Irish question, and on the Popes views on this or that are utterly unreliable,—and not worth reading.

The Coercion Act is law by this time in Ireland, probably.

King George of Greece still moves war-ward.

Mr. Speaker Stevenson is himself again.

Sir Charles Tupper is recovering.

A Paris despatch says that it is reported that Mr Parnell told Victor Hugo that though an Irish insurrection would be legitimate, the League had been dissuaded from such an attempt, as the Irish are unarmed.

If any change in Local representation is to be made, let us wait till the census have been taken.

Several French subjects in Algeria have been killed by marauding tribesmen from Tunis.

HEMLOCK QUESTION

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL LEGISLATURE.

It would be far better for some of those Hon members in the House who bring up their nonsensical resolutions, to set their overflowing brains at work and frame some bills for the protection of some of our waning industries. Since the confederation little is reserved to our House to legislate upon, though from the way the interests of the little left are guarded, we cannot but rejoice that more was not left to our keeping.

But a few interests are reserved to us, and these it is the duty of the legislature to guard as far as they have the power to guard them by means of legislation. Our forests are a vast source of wealth to our people and our revenues, but they are gradually falling before the thousands of axes among them every winter. We cannot, nor would it be wise to, resist the utilizing of our industries by legislation, for the sake of having these things by-and-by; but we can by legislative step in and check abuses, and forestall waste, and thus often perpetuate that which is on the down road to destruction. Take our hemlock industry for example. For 5 or 6 years past on sidlers have been virtually slaughtering our hemlock for the bark of the trees. These outsiders are interested in a number of tanneries and have obtained grants of hemlock lands in a neighboring state, which however they do not and will not touch till our provincial supplies are exhausted. They came into Quebec and found they could slaughter away, and went to work, they came into New Brunswick found plenty of hemlock here, and employed men in every section to chop down the trees, strip these of their bark and let the peeled trunks lie and rot where they fell. Railroads have been busy carrying away the life blood of our forests, and the chief wood boat trade on the St John river for some summers past has been "bark carrying." The same is true of the northern parts of the Province, and we understand the Shaw Bros now "want all the bark they can get by the Intercolonia."

It is a grievous waste of our natural gifts, and a crying sin, to any longer continue the slaughter of our hemlock as it has been going on for years past. It would pay well to saw these rejected logs, haul the boards to the railways or rivers, and ship them to Boston. A penalty should be imposed for chopping down the hemlock trees, and after felling them letting them rot. Fifty years hence when our other lumber shall have been all stripped, see how valuable these wasted hemlock trees would be. But above all the bark has to be protected: and whoever frames the Bill or makes the regulation to this end, will bear in mind that the destruction of our hemlock is threatened only by stripping for exportation in a raw state. What leaves here raw in one year, would supply ten factories for one year and besides would give work to five men for the one it employs when it is only cut, hauled and shipped. Unless the Surveyor General should decide to regulate the matter in Council some member, say Mr Kenny, who is practically conversant with the question and who would take an intelligent view of it, should frame and present a bill, keeping the above points in mind. A table tax on all bark taken for other than local tanning or extract purposes would meet the case. The Montreal Daily Witness endorses the late remarks we had upon the subject. It says,—

The Chatham, N.B. STAR has some sensible remarks on the great waste of the hemlock tree in procuring bark for exportation. It avers that a certain firm of exporters of bark in its crude state send away as much of the article in one year as would keep the local hemlock bark extract factory going for ten years, and that the extract manufacturers give as much employment for the tenth part they use as the exporters of the raw bark do for ten times as much. Without sufficient restriction the particular firm of bark exporters are using up rapidly their New Brunswick property, while allowing a property held by them in Maine to lie undisturbed. The STAR proposes as a remedy the increasing of the stampage tax on all bark cut for other than local tanning or extract purposes. This is a live subject in Quebec as well as New Brunswick.

All interests combine in demanding this important line of communication, and we trust that the Government will take it into favorable consideration.

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Chatham, according to the trade returns, ranks fifth amongst the shipping ports of the Dominion. For the size and number of sailing, apart from steam, vessels, we believe it

ranks third. As, also, Chatham and Newcastle are practically but one port the statistics of both should be added together to give a correct estimate of our trade. We will do this and call them by the old name of Miramichi. Last season 349 square rigged vessels of 180,265 tons left Miramichi with cargoes of lumber for the European and Australian markets. If to these we add coasters we have a total of 700 vessels. In the fisheries about the mouth of the river and in the Bay there are engaged not less than 300 fishing boats. A large number of American fishing schooners carry on mackerel fishing in and about Miramichi Bay. It is therefore a low estimate to say that 1,200 vessels employing 6,000 men are engaged in the different industries in our River and Bay.

To all these a telegraph line would be a great boon. To our merchants, shippers, and ship-owners it is almost a necessity. It would enable them to transact their business with more certainty as they could know of the arrival and departure of their vessels, and make their arrangements accordingly. To our tug boats it would be of great importance as they could learn of the arrival of vessels in the Bay, instead of, as at present, having to go down the river to see if there is anything to do.

There is at Chatham a branch of the signal service of the Dominion. The object of this service is to give notice of approach of storms. The storm drum at Chatham is not of much use. The place where this would be of greatest practical benefit is at Escuminac. If the telegraph line were in operation, the poor fisherman could often get warning of approaching danger and be able to get into port before the storm came. Many valuable lives and much property would doubtless thus be saved. This consideration alone is sufficient to call for the immediate construction of the line.

To the pilots also the line would be of great benefit. Often they have to leave the pilot ground and come to town to see if ships are loaded and ready for sea, and often too, are obliged to wait three or four days on them. They thus lose the chance of getting vessels that may mean while come along. If this line were constructed they could get the necessary information at Escuminac, which would naturally benefit the pilots and shipmasters.

It would also tend to the protection of the Dominion revenue; for between Chatham and Escuminac there's not a customs officer, and vessels might at any time come in and land goods along the river with impunity. If, however, there was communication with Escuminac, vessels coming into the Bay could be reported and the customs officers could then have some idea of what was going on down river.

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Sheriff's Sale

To be sold at Public Auction on WEDNESDAY the 1st day of June next, in front of the Post Office, in Chatham between the hours of 12 o'clock noon and 5 o'clock p. m.

All the Right, Title and Interest of Henry Sargeant, in and to all of the several Lots or parcels of Land and premises situated, lying and being in the Parish of Miramichi, and County of Northumberland, bounded and described as follows, to-wit:

All that lot or parcel of land situate in the Parish and County aforesaid, bounded in front or northerly by the Lower Bay de Vin, Bay or Shore, easterly by lands owned by John O'Neill, westerly by lands occupied by Thomas Lewis and in rear by the base-line of said lot having a frontage of 30 rods more or less, and containing 39 acres more or less.

Also, all that other lot or piece of land situate, lying and being in the Parish and County aforesaid, and bounded in front or Northerly by the base line of the front lots, Westerly by lands occupied by John Walsh, Easterly by lands occupied by Patriek Walsh and in the rear by wilderness lands—having a frontage of twenty six rods more or less and containing fifty acres more or less, and being the lot of land and premises on which the said Henry Sargeant at present resides.

Also, all that other lot or piece of land situate in the Parish and County aforesaid, bounded on the Northerly side by lands occupied by John O'Leary, Westerly by lands owned by Michael Carroll, Easterly by wilderness lands and Southerly by lands owned by the late Thomas Sargeant, deceased—being a meadow lot.

The same having been seized under and by virtue of Executions issued out of the Kent County Court at the suit of Henry O'Leary against the said Henry Sargeant and Thomas Sargeant, and out of the Northumberland County Court at the suit of Thomas H Fleisher against the said Henry Sargeant.

JOHN SHIRREFF, Sheriff of Northumberland County. Sheriff's Office, Newcastle, 16th February, A. D 1881.

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NOTICE to CONTRACTORS

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tender for Lieut. Governor's Residence, Winnipeg, Manitoba," will be received at this office until TUESDAY, 15th day of March next, for the completion of the above works.

Plans and specifications can be seen at the office of Mr. J. P. M. LeCourt, Architect, Winnipeg, and also at the Department of Public Works, Ottawa, on and after Monday, the 14th inst.

Persons tendering are notified that tenders will not be considered unless made on printed forms supplied and signed with their actual signatures.

Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted bank cheque "equal to five per cent." of the amount of the tender, which will be forfeited if the party declines to enter into a contract when called upon to do so or if he fails to complete the work contracted for. If the tender is not accepted the cheque will be returned.

The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order, F. H. ENNIS, Secretary.

Department of Public Works, Ottawa, 3rd Feb'y 1881. Feb 23 31

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