

OUR WEEKLY NATIONAL ARTICLE.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS IN CANADA.

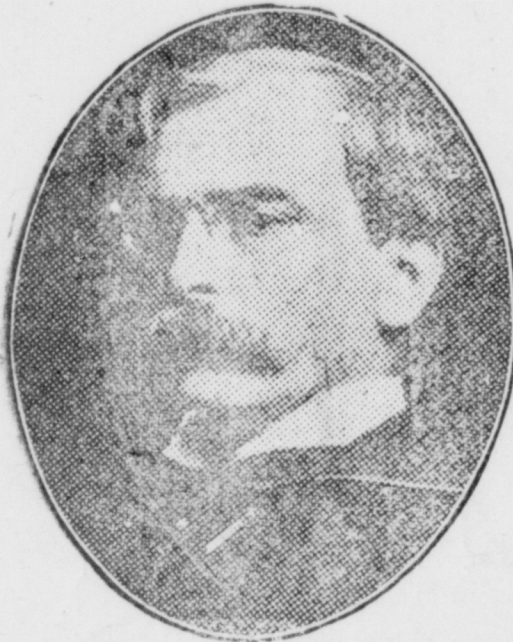
BY B. K. SANDWELL.

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The school may be said to have been literally the first institution set up by the white man in Canada. Nowhere is the history of education so ancient or so honorable. Not only are the schools of Canada the oldest in America, but they are also the best.

When the French settled the shores of the St. Lawrence, their explorers, soldiers and peasants were accompanied by missionaries whose first work it was to establish schools for the Indian population. Nowhere else were the Indians so treated, whether by English, Spanish or Dutch explorers. When children of white birth began to grow up in the colony, there were schools and teachers all ready for them; and long before the rival settlements to the south had done more than clear the ground for forts and farms, the youth of Quebec were learning their letters in a stone schoolhouse. The first teachers of Canada, the Recollet, Fathers, will in five years be celebrating the three hundredth anniversary of their arrival. The Jesuits had a college in the city of Quebec a year before the foundation of Harvard College in Massachusetts.

It is somewhat a far cry from these devoted Catholic instructors to the Ontario Public School system of the present day—the typical educational system of the Dominion, and one which has been the model not only for most of the Provinces of Canada but also for much imitation in the United States and elsewhere. "It may be doubted," says Dr. W. T. Harris,



PRINCIPAL PETERSON OF MCGILL. One of Canada's Foremost Educationalists.

editor of the International Education Series, "whether there is another instance in America of so wise a use of money and supervisory power as is shown in this Province of Ontario", in its system of local control and central regulation of the people's schools.

Like the early French schools of Quebec, however, the first educational efforts of the people of Ontario had their origin largely in religious feeling. These early Canadian wanted schools, as their Governor and intellectual leader, Simcoe, put it, "from which more than from any other source a grateful attachment to His Majesty, morality, and religion will be fostered and take root throughout the whole province." As a result largely of Simcoe's efforts, the Legislature in 1797 secured the setting apart of a large portion of the public lands as a fund for the establishment of grammar schools. From that time the schools of Ontario, and of practically the whole of Canada, have been managed and financed by the people themselves in their own school districts but regulated and largely aided financially by the central authority. To-day the three grammar schools of that time have grown to 5,869 public schools, 465 Catholic separate schools, 145 high schools and a half-dozen of universities and colleges; there are 500,000 students in the Province; illiteracy is practically unknown; and by an extensive system of scholarships the highest ranges of education are within the reach of the poorest boy who possess marked ability and application.

The Hon. George W. Ross, a school-teacher himself in the 'sixties, when Ontario was feeling her way toward this ideal system, was the Minister of Education for eighteen years, the closing eighteen years of the last century, before he became first the Premier of his province and then a member of the Dominion Senate; and he has left on record the opinion that the Ontario school system "is the evolution of the best thought of different Legislatures, aided and directed by the judgment of men who gave a lifetime to the task of adapting broad principles of organization and pedagogy to the wants and aspirations of the people for whom it was designed." The same authority claims ten great characteristics for this system, which he describes as follows:

- (1) It is an organized whole, beginning with the kindergarten and ending with the university.
- (2) It provides free education for every child from twenty-one years

(3) It graduates the courses of study so as to avoid waste of time of the pupils and waste of teaching power of the teachers.

(4) It provides a trained teacher for every school, aided by public money.

(5) It furnishes a uniform standard for every teacher according to his rank.

(6) It protects children against the selfishness or neglect of parents and guardians, by making attendance at school compulsory.

(7) It secures trustees against the incapacity of teachers by a rigorous system of examination and inspection.

(8) It protects education from the caprice of public opinion by the appointment of inspectors during pleasure, and by the election of trustees for a lengthened term of service.

(9) It secures economy and uniformity in text-books by placing their publication in the hands of a central provincial authority.

(10) It permits the establishment of separate schools for Roman Catholics subject to the same standard of efficiency as to the public schools.

The Ontario Department of Education has taken a very wide view of its functions, not at all confined to the mere management of schools. It carries on a vigorous campaign amongst the public libraries of the province, improving the character and classification of books, promoting the purchase of serious works other than fiction, and encouraging the circulation of Canadian and British literature as against American and other foreign writings. Hundreds of Travelling Libraries are operated by this Department in rural communities, and the children in all Ontario schools are encouraged to make the freest possible use of the available collections.

But it is in the West that education has accomplished its greatest marvels. Almost the first thing done when a new area is opened up to settlement is to establish a school district, largely financed by the revenue from lands set apart for the purpose in every township in the early 'seventies, and in part by a special tax on land. Saskatchewan three times the number it possessed when established as a Province in 1905, and some sixty thousand school-children, and this year about two and a half million dollars will be spent on the schools alone. The province of Alberta is even more aggressive. Both of these young provinces have established state universities costing half a million each for buildings alone. Education in the prairie provinces is not compulsory, but there is a strong demand that it be made so. It is no uncommon thing for a school in the West to have pupils of twenty or thirty different nationalities, just over from Europe and hardly able to speak a word of English; but the task of making them Canadians is being carried on with astounding efficiency. Like Alberta, Saskatchewan has sixty thousand school children.

In Manitoba there is an even more strenuous fight going on for compulsory education than further West. While the schools there are doing excellent work, the cause of education in general has been greatly handicapped by constant conflicts regarding the rights of the Roman Catholics minority, who do not possess here the privilege of absolutely separate schools which enables them to go their own way in most of the other provinces.

In Quebec the Protestant minority carries on a separate school system of its own under religious control. Up to the last year or two the inadequate revenues of the Province allowed very little to be done by the Government for the schools of either section of the population, and Catholic education was promoted largely by the devotion of certain religious brotherhoods and the clergy, while the Protestant schools were either cruelly handicapped by poverty or maintained by generous self-taxation on the part of the people. One result of this system has been to induce private generosity on the part of the millionaires of the Province, such as that by which Sir William Macdonald established the Macdonald College, the model agricultural training school of the world and one of the finest institutions for training teachers on the American continent. In the last two years the Government has been able to make somewhat more generous grants to the poorer schools, but the state of Protestant education in many parts is still unsatisfactory especially as some of them are dominated, as it is the case in Montreal, by incapable men.

Public opinion, however, is being roused calling attention to this state of affairs, and it is expected that the Province will follow its sister provinces in putting education outside of politics, and provide educational facilities for all dominations of its population.

The Universities of Canada are famed the world over. Perhaps the best known is that of McGill in Montreal, which owes all its greatness to the generosity of a few wealthy

citizens and to the wisdom of its directors in devoting their funds at an early period to scientific apparatus. Toronto University, always famous for its Arts teaching, has in the last few years been financed by the Ontario Government to a point where it can compete to some extent with McGill for science students, denominational colleges and universities, both for theology and Arts, flourish all over the country, chief among the Protestants being Queen's, the Presbyterian foundation at Kingston, and among the Catholics the University of Laval at Quebec with its branch at Montreal. Technical schools, Ontario at usual leading the way, have sprung up in every important centre under provincial direction, but there is at present a movement on foot to ascertain what the federal government can do for this branch of education, from which those who put a broad construction on the British North American Act, the constitution of Canada, claim that it is not excluded.

SURE SIGNS Of Kidney Trouble

If your back is constantly aching and if you experience dull shooting pains, your kidneys are out of order. If your urine is thick and cloudy or your passages frequent scanty and painful, your kidneys and bladder are out of order. Neglect quickly brings on rheumatism, diabetes, lumbago sciatica and etc.,

Mrs John Wagner of 110 Hollis St., Halifax, N. S., says: "Dull shooting pains would catch me across the small part of my back and extend into my shoulders and neck, often causing me to suffer with severe headaches and spells of dizziness. Spots would dazzle before my eyes and everything would turn black. I would fall to the floor and be unable to get up again without assistance. A friend told me of Booth's Kidney Pills and I began their use. The first box gave me relief and I am now well and strong."



All druggists sell Booth's kidney Pills 50c. a box with a guarantee to relieve or your money back. They are the world's greatest specific for Kidney and bladder trouble. Postpaid from the proprietors The R. T. Booth Co. Ltd Fort Erie. Sold and guaranteed by E. W. Mair.

Orders 50 Postal Banks

Washington, Aug. 29.—Continuing his determination to establish postal savings depositaries as rapidly as possible in all of the larger post-offices of the country, Postmaster-General Hitchcock yesterday designated 50 additional offices of the first class. The receipts in the great post-offices at New York, Chicago, St. Louis, and Boston, which opened for business on Aug. 1, amounted to \$250,000 at the end of the first three weeks, with every indication that the interest in the system will continue to grow.

For toast to serve with poached eggs cut out the centre of slices of bread with a round biscuit cutter. Toast in the oven, after buttering them.

A "Cowless" Dairy

The ingeniousness of some people in making a living off the unsuspecting public is almost beyond comprehension. Away out in the State of Washington, on the Pacific Coast, a man was charged the other day with operating a "cowless" dairy. He bought cheap brands of condensed milk and by the use of water and sugar of milk prepared a mixture that sold readily for fresh milk. He had fifty customers in some of the poorer districts of Seattle, to whom he delivered this milk every morning, and not one of them complained of the quality or that there was no cream on the milk. He might have kept on delivering this spurious milk had not the city inspector collected a sample of the mixture sold and had it analyzed. Then the imposture was discovered, and the fellow prevented from doing business. And so it goes. Every once in a while some genius invents some fraud of this kind and works it off on the public without their knowing that they are being deceived in any way. And the dairy business more than any other seems to furnish opportunities for this kind of thing.—Canadian Farm

No Salmon Caught

Sussex Record: No salmon have been caught at Sussex so far this year, although the waters have been carefully fished by the experts. The low water has kept the fish down stream, but it was expected that with the recent heavy rains there would be a big run. This has not materialized, although the presence of salmon has been reported from the upper water of Trout Creek. The season has been a month longer this year than usual, but the adverse conditions have made this a negative concession. However, the situation is not without hope and the next few days may bring up the fish and provide good sport at this point.

"NERVILINE" CURES RHEUMATISM

And Here Is the Proof—A Solemn Statement From a Four-Year Cripple, Who Says "Nerviline" Did It.

"If I had lived through my sufferings another year it would have been a miracle." This is the opening sentence of the declaration made by Mr. J. Eccles Squires, member of one of the best-known families for twenty miles round Sydney. "My hands were drawn out of shape, even my fingers were gnarled and crooked—my lameness, stiffness, and inability to get about all showed the havoc Rheumatism made with my health. The blessing of it all is that I have heard of Nerviline, and now I am able to tell and advise others how they may get well, too. My system was so weakened that I had to build up with a good tonic, so I took Ferruzone at meals. But I never stopped rubbing on Nerviline—it had a magic influence on my stiff, painful joints, and bottle after bottle was rubbed on the painful parts. Nerviline cured me. I am well to-day—have been well for 4½ years."

You also can cure rheumatism, lumbago, sciatica, neuralgia, or any pain or stiffness in the muscles or joints—to do so use Nerviline. Don't let your druggist substitute. Get Nerviline only; large bottles, 25c, or five for \$1; sold everywhere.

CURED 4 1-2 YEARS

Baby's Terrible Eczema

Hands Tied to Prevent Scratching

Five Doctors Failed to Relieve, but Zam-Buk Worked a Cure

Mrs. Chas. Levere, of Prescott, North Channel, Ont., tells how Zam-Buk cured her baby. she says:—"My baby's head and face was one complete mass of sores. The itching and irritation were fearful, and the little one's plight was so serious that at one time we feared her ears would be eaten off by the disease."

"We had to keep her hands tied for days to prevent her rubbing and scratching the sores. Doctor after doctor treated her in vain, until we had had five doctors. They all agreed it was a frightful case of eczema, but none of them did any permanent good."

"As a last resource we were advised to try Zam-Buk. The first box did so much good that we felt sure we were at last working in the right direction. We persevered with the treatment until we had used thirteen boxes, and at the end of that time I am glad to say Zam-Buk had effected a complete cure."

For eczema, eruptions, rashes, tetters, itch, ringworm and similar skin diseases, Zam-Buk is without equal. It also cures cuts, burns, scalds, piles, abscesses, chronic sores, blood poisoning, etc. All druggists and stores at 50 cents a box, or post free for price from Zam-Buk Co., Toronto. Refuse imitations.

Toys For A Royal Baby

(Paris correspondence of the London Standard.)

Among the luggage which President Fallieres took with him to Holland on his official visit, was one box to which special care was given.

It contained a big white swan, M. Fallieres's present to the little Princess Juliana. In the swan—which is—which is itself a box, although it sings a swan song and swims on the water—are three doll beautifully dressed in the latest Paris fashions, and made to walk, to kiss their hands, and sing the 'Marseillaise' and the Dutch anthem. Of course, an old rag doll would please the wee princess much better than such gorgeous gifts. But she must learn as early as it can be learned that greatness has its own responsibilities.

Nut Cookies

One and one-half cups of brown sugar, one cup of butter, three eggs beaten separately, one teaspoon soda dissolved in a little boiling water, two and three-quarters cups flour, one pinch of salt, one teaspoon of cinnamon, one-half teaspoon of cloves, one pound nuts and one pound raisins, dropped with teaspoon in buttered tins. These will keep for a long time.

PURITY FLOUR

"More bread and better bread"

Makes just the kind of biscuits you like to make

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