

The "Maritime Farmer," A Weekly Journal, devoted to AGRICULTURE, POLITICAL, LITERATURE AND NEWS, is published from the Office, Corner Queen and Carleton Streets, Directly opposite the Post Office, FREDERICTON, N. B. ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON. Subscription Price - \$1.00 per Year.

Maritime Farmer. FREDERICTON, N. B., December 31, 1884.

The Old Year and the New. The old year is dying. The last record of its failures and triumphs are written to-day. To-night the volume shall be closed, and the matter inscribed therein shall pass into history. To many the parting will be sad. The days and weeks of 1884 for them, have been the happiest period of their existence. They weep, perhaps for the joys that never again will be theirs.

"He gave me a friend and a true, true love, And the New Year will take 'em away."

But not alone with joys, are the pages of the volume written. Sorrow and anguish, disaster and disease, hunger and want, these are the stark images that associate themselves with the brighter pictures of the year. To have known these, is not to weep that time to-day relegates the old year into the past. There are no tears that—

"His face is growing sharp and thin," but with a zest they—

"Close up his eyes; tie up his chin; Step from the corpse and let him in; That stands with these alone And waits at the door."

But the bitterness of the past is forgotten in the bright promise of the future, and sad hearts turn with buoyancy to the coming year. The clanging of the midnight bells, marking the flight of the old year, rings in the new, with all its hopes and expectations, new resolves, new desires, and higher aims. The sadness of the parting is obliterated by the pleasures of welcoming—

"A new foot on the floor my friend, And a new face at the door my friend, A new face at the door."

With a hearty welcome then let us greet on the morrow, the New Year. Let us meet it with a resolve that the errors of the old shall not be recorded against us in the new; that nobler ambitions, purer desires, more honest dealing with our fellow men, shall characterize our conduct during the coming year. There could be no more worthy celebration of its advent than this. Let us, in the beautiful words of Tennyson—

"Ring out the old, ring in the new, With a burst of gladness and a song; Ring in the love that truth and right, Ring in the common love of good."

To all the readers and friends of the FARMER, which enters upon another year with the confidence that its mission, as an exponent and reflector of current opinions and desires, is warmly appreciated by a large and intelligent class of our people, we wish A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

The Mayoralty Election. The election for Mayor will be held on the 12th of January. Mayor Fenety will offer for re-election, and it is not probable that opposition will be offered to his re-election. He has given a great deal of time and attention to the duties of the office, and has exercised his best judgment in their discharge. It is human to err, however, and possibly Mayor Fenety does not claim infallibility in his administration of civic affairs. We believe that he has given general satisfaction as Chief Magistrate of the city, and the experience of the past years will be invaluable to him in the exercise of his authority during the third term, for which he will be elected by the unanimous vote of the city.

A City of Extremes. A representative of the Halifax Herald who visited St. John's, Newfoundland, recently, finds material for a series of interesting articles on the people of that city and the Province of which it is the commercial and political metropolis. Newfoundland is an old colony, its history dates back three hundred years, but its ways are those of a century ago. Its development has been terribly slow. One fact regarding the city of St. John's, which has a population nearly as great as St. John will illustrate the general tardy growth of the whole island. St. John's is not incorporated! It has no Mayor, Council, police force or fire department regularly organized.

"Extremes meet" in that city of fish, says the correspondent. Here are a few illustrations: St. John's has two magnificent cathedrals—Roman Catholic and Episcopalian, the latter designed by Sir Gilbert Scott. The respective denominations and the people generally are naturally and justly proud of them. There are a few public buildings like them on the continent. They cost some \$500,000. But St. John's public charities are remarkable few and far between. It has no schools for the education of the blind, the deaf and dumb, or for its youthful criminals. It has not a single solitary public free school. The antiquated, sectional, unprogressive, and trebly expensive denominational school system is still in vogue. It is building a \$400,000 Masonic Hall, but has no charitable institutions for the helpless and aged ones. It has a \$600,000 Atheneum Hall, reading room and a 6,000 volume library, but no public gardens, park, or common. It has a \$200,000 residence for the governors of less than 200,000 people; but its hotels charge \$2 a day for 70c and \$1 accommodations, and their bedrooms and table fare would soon ruin the travel of any village in the Maritime Provinces.

But the progress of St. John's, and indeed the whole island, must be very great in the near future. A railway line, the first in that Province, is nearly completed, and only the other day, a new graving dock capable of accommodating the largest ships was opened. Race and religious prejudices have had much to do with the slow development of Newfoundland. The people are divided into Protestants and Roman Catholics, and each has little to do socially with the other. A thorough system of education would do much to dispel these prejudices and unite all for the common good. Newfoundland, though agriculturally a poor country, is rich alone in its fisheries, and its mines are the source of its future progress since it has no other important adjunct as a railway, must be much greater than during the past centuries.

The Normal School. It is not necessary to point out the many advantages accruing to the public from a well equipped and properly conducted Training School. Public education owes its success or failure, to the way in which such an institution is managed. It must always occupy a first place in any system of public instruction. The late Chief Superintendent of Education and the Government of his day, left us a Normal School, not only well ordered and thoroughly equipped, but resting on such a broad liberal basis, that every class and interest were properly provided for. It is, however, fast becoming a mere wreck. Its reign of general usefulness, apparently, is approaching an end, for since the country had the misfortune to see Mr. Crockett appointed Chief Superintendent, attack after attack has been made on this institution. It is not for us to inquire whether this is the result of his glaring incompetency, or dictated by Government parsimony, or a feeling of hostility against some of the interests involved. Either motive is enurable; all are probable.

In the first place, we will consider the blow struck at the Acadian French in the abolition of the French Preparatory Department. In 1878, this Province saw for the first time, a long-delayed measure of justice extended to this people. A French Preparatory Department was opened in the Normal School, and a French teacher employed. For one-half a century, or more, the Province had supported a public Training School, sometimes two, but the French were practically excluded, for they were met at the doors by a test, a rigid test, the ability to pass the prescribed examinations in the English language. In consequence of this hardship, very few were trained. When the Normal School was removed to Fredericton and reorganized, no provision was made for French teachers. It is true they were not excluded. If they had mastered the English language sufficiently to pass the examination and profit by the instructions given in the same tongue, well and good; if not, they might stay at home. It is needless to add that they remained at home. In this State Dr. Rand found the Institution. His ideal in education was uniformity, and he bent his ability and energy to bring about that end; but he weighed conditions too, and the light of a few years' experience showed him, that better provision must be made for the French. He did not hesitate to make his cherished uniformity yield, so as to assimilate this new element. Education, not the command of a strange language, was to be the test; for was it not the test of the English speaking student-teachers' fitness? It would be a criminal waste of their time, too, to be trying to give them instruction in a tongue they knew but imperfectly, or not at all. Consequently, Dr. Rand and the late Government established the French Department, and employed a French instructor. Surely the educational claims of 55,000 people justified the step.

Has the institution realized the expectations of its founders and proved a boon to the French? Most decidedly. In support of this conviction, we appeal to the records of its short life. The temporary Chief Superintendent says in his last Report, that 99 teachers were graduated from it during the five years it was in operation. This would show an average of about 20 per year. During the five years ending 1877, there were received into the Normal School 708, (there was no French Department then) a considerable number of whom, probably 10 per cent, were already holders of licenses. This would give an average of about 130 new teachers per year, a few, no doubt, being French. Let us compare these figures with the population as given by the census of 1880-81. The total population of the whole Province was 321,233, of whom 59,598 were Acadians, leaving the number of non-French 261,635. This would show an average of one new teacher for every 2000 English, and one for every 2800 Acadians. And this we must bear in mind, that the first effort made by the Province to train French teachers, and that, too, under severe and humiliating conditions of obtaining license, with reference well made farther on. Is this not an honorable record? Yet Mr. Crockett, with characteristic unfairness and discourtesy, not only disregards these facts, but offers an insult to those concerned, for he says in the same Report, "though the present arrangements were made in their behalf, they have not appreciated them, at any rate they have not taken advantage of them." Nothing but a spirit of hostility and contempt for the language of facts could have prompted him to make such an insulting remark. In truth he seems so possessed of this feeling as to be unable to control it, even when the subject matter of his remarks deserves something else. In 1881, the first year of the nine month term, he reports 80 new teachers took license in the English Department, or but one for every 4000 English, and during the same year 55 were graduated from the French Department, or an average of one teacher for every 1000 French, a ratio nearly three times greater than that of the English. Does he even speak encouragingly of this strong evidence of warm appreciation by the French, of the advantages offered by this institution? Not at all. On the contrary, he detracts from a very honorable record, for he prefaces the announcement of the attendance by saying, "the attendance in this Department (French) has been fairly satisfactory." Considering the very small attendance at the English Department that year, which he passes over without any comment, his "fairly satisfactory" is easily understood. Are we then surprised at the attitude of the French Department? Not at all. He had put his name on record and prepared for the denouement. And thus the French Preparatory Department, established by the late Government under the fostering care of the late and accomplished Chief Superintendent, Dr. Rand, has been ruthlessly swept away by an incompetent Administration, and at the instigation of a man, whose short career has been noted for nothing but blundering and hostility to the teachers' interests. To-day the Acadian French are worse off in the matter of public facilities for training teachers than they were twenty-five years ago! Surely this people, who so zeal and earnest in the education of their children, the Inspectors being willing and ample testimony, were deserving of better treatment! Surely this refusal to pay one teacher for these 55,000 people, is not endorsed by the honest and liberal-minded public! Certainly not, it is Blair and Crockett who have brought this dishonor and disgrace on the Province.

Let us consider this matter in another phase, and we must be surprised that so many attended the French Department, for the conditions of obtaining licenses were severe and humiliating. The student teacher of average attainments was obliged to remain a year at the Normal School or accept a license of the 3rd class tenable for three years. The former was beyond the means of his desire of becoming teachers; it was a subject of congratulation if the latter were beneath the pride of many more. But why require the French student teacher to remain 10 months, while his English conferees secure their permanent license in 5; or 12 months while the English speaking student receives his in 9? This is not open-handed justice, and could have been prompted by but one motive—to oblige the French student to pass through the English Department. Why not treat these student teachers as the English speaking ones were treated previous to 1872.

Do Not be Discouraged even if you have tried many remedies for your Kidney disease or Liver complaint without success it is no reason why you should think your disorder incurable. The most instructive cases readily yield to the potent virtues of KIDNEY-WORT. It is a purely vegetable compound which acts on the Kidneys, Liver and Bowels, at the same time and thus cleanses the whole system. Don't wait, but get a package to-day and cure yourself.

Dr. Howard, Jr., one of the demonstrators of anatomy at McGill College, Montreal, has succeeded in securing by examination, the fellowship of the royal college of surgeons of England, being the first native Canadian who has obtained the honor.

A Step in the Right Direction. We are much gratified to learn, from an authentic source, that the Board of Cavalry Equipment of the United States Army, consisting of experienced and able Cavalry officers, has concluded to recommend for exclusive use in the Service, the Specific Veterinary medicine made by Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil. This determination has been arrived at only after a most thorough and exhaustive examination of the subject, the above Board of officers, in the line of duty, applied to this Company for information upon the subject more especially relating to two points—the relative loss of stock and the cost of treatment. The Humphreys Company simply referred the Board to various sources, and the Board of Cavalry Equipment, after a most thorough examination of the subject, has concluded to recommend for exclusive use in the Service, the Specific Veterinary medicine made by Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil. 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