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WHOLE No. 2913.

COMPULSORY EDUCATION.

The people of Canada will soon realize, what those who are in any way working among the distressed classes are bitterly lamenting, that we are nurturing up among us a lapsed class. Canadians often make boast of their educational systems. Since Dr. Ryerson's day Ontario has proudly claimed to lead the world in that respect. Yet in many rural parts of Ontario people are growing up unable to read and write. We cannot well look to a census for correct figures on the subject of illiteracy, as no one in Canada with the slightest beginning of education is going to put himself down as being unable to read or write. If the recent census gives anything like correct figures in Ontario we should expect that the numbers of the Canadian-born illiterate would be such as to cause that province to revise its educational administration. In Ontario education is legally compulsory, and the law provides for truant officers where school boards exist, and for the fining of parents and guardians who neglect their children but the enforcement of these provisions is left to school trustees, which in many cases, if not in most, practically means that there is no enforcement. There is also a compulsory law in Nova Scotia which seems to have some enforcement, at least in Halifax, where truant officers appointed by the school board have neglected parents brought before the stipendiary magistrate. Action of this sort is more to be looked for in cities where there are organized agencies at work for the benefit of the poor, and sufficiently strong to insist on the enforcement of the law, than in country parts, where nobody makes the matter his business. The same compulsory law exists in Prince Edward Island, but is little else than a law. New Brunswick has not even a law.

The Province of Quebec frequently claims the superiority of its educational system over all others, and appeals to the prizes given to its exhibits at this and that exhibition in evidence. Our systems, whatever it is to be said for them, do not include compulsion, and there is no province with so large a proportion of illiterates. It came up in the legislature a year or two ago that it was impossible to find in some school districts enough people who could read and write to form a school board. The number of names appended to petitions with a cross to them is ever a standing witness to the discreditable condition of the people. The Liberals came into power with tremendous boasts of what they were going to do for education, but have made no great change in the condition of things, which they as a party professed to deplore. The reasons given for resisting a compulsory clause, so far as we ever heard any, are two. The first is that it is an unwarrantable interference between parents and children—implying that it is an inalienable right of parents to bring up their children in ignorance if they choose. The other is that the urging of such a measure would be displeasing to the clergy, which must be a slander on the clergy, in view of the ceaseless protest that education has no such friends as the clergy.

There is no greater danger to any self-governing community than illiteracy. The illiterate fill by vast majority the ranks of criminals. They are thus individually dangerous. They become an easy prey of every idle agitator and are thus dangerous in masses. If the community has any right to interfere in the matter of education at all it is in this more than in anything else. There might be some argument against having the state prescribe how any child should be taught. That involves some sharing of the parent's function. There might be a certain selfish argument against taking money from those that have it to educate the children of those that have none and the money of those who have no children to educate other people's children. There might be some moral argument against taking a man's money to impart an education in which he did not believe or professed not to believe. But we submit there is absolutely no argument at all against requiring that all children shall be educated. For one thing the state has certainly a right and a duty to protect the unprotected. Education is a universal right which should be secured to all, no matter who objects. But for another thing the very principle of self-government implies intelligence on the part of the voter. Under our complicated conditions to put government into the hands of people who cannot read and write is the wildest folly. It is simply handing the government of the country over to interested schemers. If self-

government is to be anything but boss tyranny the people must be educated. If the liberties which we prize are to be liberties at all the people must be educated. It is only the most rudimentary common sense to insist on it. But, apart from all these reasons, will no one listen to the cry of those who care for the neglected children whose worthless parents are dooming them to lives of degradation? The Society for the Protection of Women and Children are surely the right people to speak. —Montreal Witness.

MR. CHOATE'S SPEECH

At the Chamber of Commerce Dinner, New York.

The New York Herald says: Mr. Choate started laughter by declaring that Mr. Hay had warned him never to make a speech if he could help it. "I shall not undertake to tell you what I have been doing during the last three years," said Mr. Choate. "As your representative, I certainly have been treated with the utmost respect and consideration. No man could find himself in a community more disposed to manifest loyal friendship than I have found among the people of London and of England. I found very soon that they had no use over there for chaff and gush.

I found that a manly and vigorous assertion of American character, American interests and American rights was much more calculated to propitiate their favor and their favorable consideration of anything that I had to offer than any attempt to flatter or to cajole them. I found that they were very much like the people whom I had left at home—that they were determined to maintain their own character and their own rights, and they wanted and expected their representatives of other people to meet them in the same fashion."

Mr. Choate described the sorrow of the English nation when the news of President McKinley's assassination was received.

"Immediately before that shocking event," he said, "the last words of the president had been transmitted throughout all Europe, and especially throughout all the British dominions. It had been, as I think, justly regarded as an overture of good will and friendship to all the nations of the earth. And then came this terrible blow.

I cannot express to you the universality, the spontaneity, the overwhelming tide of the sympathy that was everywhere and by everybody expressed.

Messages of sympathy and condolence began to come in from such bodies as the Society of Cab Drivers plying at Charing Cross, from five thousand workmen assembled in Hyde Park, from every religious body throughout the British Islands, from every Chamber of Commerce; and there was one address, in particular, which I think you, so closely connected as you are with the business men of London, would most highly appreciate.

It was expressed in most feeling terms. It was signed with the autograph of every merchant and every trader and every banker of any known position in the city of London, and it manifested, as I believe, how the people who knew the real union of interests between the two peoples regarded that sad catastrophe.

And it was not only from London, it was not merely from the British Islands, from Land's End to John O'Groats, but it was from all parts of the British dominions, from the remotest corners of the globe, the Island of Antipodes, wherever there was an English speaking people, however small, the same response came from them. So universal, so spontaneous was this overwhelming tide of affectionate sympathy that I think it was justly regarded by the government at Washington as nothing else than a national demonstration of friendship and good will."

A GRAVE TEST.

A Hypnotist to lie Under Ground for a Week.

Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 21.—Carl Athens, hypnotist, was buried in a vacant lot, the business centre of Kansas City, Wednesday night, while in a state of self-induced hypnosis. A watch was swung in front of his face and Athens began to sway backward and forward until his body became rigid and he fell into the doctor's arms. He was laid in a coffin and lowered into a grave, and the dirt was shoveled in. The glass on the coffin, which was lighted by electricity, was not covered to the head, the running down to the head the spectators could see the face of the hypnotist six feet below the surface. Athens is to lie under ground for a week. Local physicians are deeply interested in the burial.

Canada's Offer of 600 Mounted Men

For Service in South Africa, Accepted by the Imperial Authorities.

London, Nov. 23.—The war office announced to-day that it has accepted Canada's offer of 600 mounted men for service in South Africa.

Ottawa, Nov. 24.—Although the governor general had not received up to this evening any official cable from the imperial authorities notifying the Canadian government that their offer of 600 mounted infantry for service in South Africa had been accepted, it is learned that the Associated Press despatch of Saturday saying that the offer was accepted by the war office, has been confirmed by a private cable to-day to the government from London. This explains the cause of Dr. Borden calling upon Major General O'Grady-Haly, this evening, and spending an hour or so with the commanding officer of the militia. The minister of militia was asked if he had anything to say about this offer. He replied that he had no official information upon the subject but he was pretty well satisfied that the press cable was correct and therefore the department was preparing to be in readiness to send forward the troops without any delay.

Major Woodside, the census commissioner for the Yukon, has offered his service to go to South Africa.

Hon. Dr. Borden being interviewed the other day by a Conservative newspaper, was asked if the war office would equip the mounted force it is proposed to send to South Africa.

"No," replied the minister, "we shall do all that. We shall furnish the horses, the arms and equipment complete, even to the tents, so that when the force lands in South Africa it will be ready to take the field."

This is perfectly correct as far as it goes, but the impression is conveyed that Canada, in addition to doing all this work, will also foot the bills. Such is not the case. There is no appropriation for such an expenditure and without the sanction of parliament the government could not undertake it. The reasons given for defraying the cost of the first contingents without consulting parliament do not exist to-day and the minister did not mean to convey the idea that the Canadian government intends, in the present instance, to pay the cost. The whole machinery of the department of militia will be placed at the disposal of the British government for raising the troops, but whatever costs will be incurred they will be charged to the imperial authorities just in the same way as were the bills for the South African constabulary. That at any rate was the decision which the cabinet had reached in making the offer and inquiry in government circles since does not indicate that there had been any change. Hon. Mr. Borden authorizes a correction of the statement attributed to him. He says he was not correctly reported.

Ottawa, Nov. 24.—A cable was received from the high commissioner in London, England, to-night saying that Canada's offer of 600 mounted infantry had been accepted by the war office.

Toronto, Nov. 23.—Major Merritt has returned from Ottawa, whither he went to interview the premier and minister of militia relative to the offer of Canadian troops. He expressed the opinion that the corps will be recruited in Canada, but that the Canadian government would not bear the expense of the expedition. The government's offer was merely a substitution of Major Merritt's offer to the war office some time ago, with additional understanding that appointment of officers be made by Canadian authorities. Major Merritt's visit to Ottawa had to do with his offer to recruit corps and command it, but it is hardly likely he will get the appointment, as there are strong grounds for the belief that Col. Evans, of Winnipeg, will be chosen.

ENGLISH PAPERS COMMENT.

Toronto, Nov. 25.—The Telegram's special cable from London says: "Canada's offer of a mounted corps of 600 men is most favorably commented on by the evening papers. The Globe says the action is especially significant and especially welcome just now. The St. James Gazette says, 'no better can be had than these hardy men who are the best of riders and best of shots.'"

Winnipeg, Nov. 25.—Col. Evans, C. B., said to-day he had heard nothing as yet from Ottawa regarding the command of the new contingent. He is busy, however, getting everything in readiness in case he should

be offered the position of commandant.

Military men here think the contingent is not likely to be recruited from the permanent force, as it is considered inadvisable to disturb that on account of recent reports of uneasy feeling in the Yukon. This would apply only to non-commissioned officers and men, as officers have the privilege of resigning to enroll themselves on the strength of the new contingent.

A STUBBORN FIGHT.

The Boers Bolted.

BRITISH CHASED THEM FOR 28 MILES.

London, Nov. 23.—The Statist suggests that the large business centres throughout the country whose interests are injured by a continuation of the war in South Africa should raise and equip a mounted volunteer corps for service and that the wealthy classes should subscribe the necessary funds. The proprietors of the Statist offer to start the subscription with 1,000 guineas.

Bloemfontein, Nov. 22.—General Hamilton's column, operating in the district around Reddersburg, located some of Ackermann's commando, on Nov. 11, in a strong position on a farm with kopjes in their rear. The Boers were 250 strong. After a stubborn fight the burghers retreated, leaving one man killed on the field. Six prisoners were taken, including General Kolbe. Thirty mules, 30 horses and 1,500 rounds of ammunition were captured. The Boers bolted across the Riet River. The British continued the chase for 28 miles, when their horses were galloped to a standstill. Most of the Boers had two horses and they changed them and abandoned one during pursuit.

The chase was taken up by Lowry and Cole on the 12th and they captured 34 more prisoners. The remainder were driven off toward the camp of the Bedfordshires. The British loss was two wounded. Twelve of Commandant Ackermann's men deserted their commando, which has been severely handled in the past few days by the Bedfordshires and other British columns. Five of the 12 surrendered to the outposts of Bloemfontein Monday. The other seven were too exhausted to reach the British camp, and a cart was sent to bring them in. They were in a terrible plight, having been three days without food.

Johannesburg, Nov. 22.—Another anti British conspiracy has been nipped in the bud. Twenty arrests were made at midnight on Tuesday in houses in various parts of Johannesburg. A great sensation followed.

A LIE CLINCHED.

London, Nov. 25.—With reference to the story that the British placed Boer women and children in front during the fighting at Graspan, June 6, when General DeWet's convoy was captured—a story which has been spread broadcast on the continent as an example of British barbarity—the Daily Mail sent a despatch of enquiry to Lord Kitchener, who replied as follows:

"The statement is absolutely untrue and devoid of all foundation. One child was killed and one woman and one child were wounded by the Boers."

The Johannesburg conspiracy is the most important disclosure of the South African despatches. It involves another series of military trials and executions, and does not encourage hope of a speedy settlement of the race feud.

A SERIOUS AFFAIR.

London, Nov. 25.—Unofficial news from South Africa shows that the affair on which Commandant Buys was captured some days ago was far more serious than Lord Kitchener's despatch indicated. The facts, so far as they are now known, were that the Boers captured a company of British soldiers, mortally wounded their commander, wounded four officers and then retired, presumably with unwounded prisoners, on the approach of a strong British force. In retiring one of the Boer officers was hit in the leg and was left behind and picked up by the British. The Boers in retiring again crossed a strong line of blockhouses.

The anti-Roberts demonstration at Aldershot on Saturday is strongly condemned, and severe disciplinary measures are called for. The incident, of course, is traceable to the suppression of General Buller, for which the soldiers think the Commander-in-Chief is personally responsible.

TRAITORS PUNISHED.

Johannesburg, Nov. 24.—Vernich a Boer, was tried by court martial on a charge of high treason, by inciting

Boers in the burgher camps to break their oath of allegiance and rejoin their commandoes. He was shot on Thursday. Meyer, against whom there is a similar charge, was sentenced to penal servitude for life.

A Winter's Walk in Canada.

Canada has of late been bulking large in the public eye. She it was who first proved confederation feasible; she it was who gave practical shape to the idea of imperial unity by the institution of a preferential tariff; she linked East with West by her Pacific railway; and it is she who took the initiative in imperial penny postage. From the position of a humble colonial dependency she has risen to the rank, if not of a political and fiscal experimenter. The contrast is notable.

I took the other day a long winter's walk in this country of contrasts. For this, of truth, Canada is. Her climate, her scenery, her sentiments, her people, her politics, all exhibit extremes the most extraordinary. A winter of arctic severity is followed by a tropical summer. Within sight of luxuriant pastures glide stupendous glaciers. Flattest prairies spread to the feet of mountain ranges the rivals of the Alps; prim fields, orchards, and vineyards encroach upon primeval forests. Along with the hardy apple and the far-famed No. 1 Manitoba wheat, this land produces strawberries, peaches, grapes and melons. Constitutionally content with British connection, her people are intimately influenced by ideas and manners American. Indeed, her people are as heterogeneous as herself. The Maritime Provinces of the extreme east hardly call themselves Canadian; Quebec is French; Ontario is Canadian to the core, so is Manitoba; in the Northwest Territories are settlers from almost every nationality in Europe; British Columbia, in the extreme west, again, fights shy of the cognomen Canadian. Newfoundland holds aloof altogether. A rude and untamed social life goes hand in hand with patches of refinement and culture unmistakable. Canadian cheese took the prize at Chicago; Canadian poetry has been crowned by the academy. Lauding democratic institutions to the skies, radical to the last degree, Canada nevertheless contains within herself castes and cliques in their horror of such principles almost rabid. With a political system the counterpart of the British, her politics are rife with personalities, election protests, corruption trials.—(Arnold Haultain in Nineteenth Century.)

Great Meeting at Amherst.

On the occasion of the Fat Stock Show, at Amherst, on the 17th, 18th and 19th of December, there will be a monster public meeting on the evening of the 17th, when the following gentlemen are expected to give short addresses: Hon. Sydney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, Ottawa; Prof. J. W. Robertson, Dominion Commissioner of Agriculture and Dairying; H. J. Logan, M. P.; Hon. L. J. Tweedie, Premier of New Brunswick; Hon. George H. Murray, Premier of Nova Scotia; Hon. L. P. Farris, Commissioner of Agriculture for New Brunswick; Hon. J. W. Longley, Attorney General of Nova Scotia; Hon. T. R. Black, Amherst; and Hon. B. Rogers, Commissioner of Agriculture for Prince Edward Island. His Worship Mayor Dickie of Amherst will give an address of welcome, to which Vice President Col. H. M. Campbell and B. W. Chipman, Secretary of Agriculture for Nova Scotia, will respond. The railways will carry both exhibits and visitors to and from the show for one fare.

Profit in Poultry Raising.

Chickens Bring 14 cents per lb., in Liverpool.

Ottawa, Nov. 22.—The department of agriculture has forwarded another lot of specially fattened chickens in cold storage to Great Britain this week. This lot was from various fattening stations, and contained 2,502 chickens. Returns have just been received from the first lot of fattened chickens shipped by the department this season. These were fattened at the poultry fattening station at Bonville, Que., they were sold in Liverpool wholesale at 14 cents per pound, and net returns were equal to \$1.31 per pair of chickens at Montreal.

Professor Robertson says the export trade in fattened chickens is bound to become a very large one, and will greatly increase as soon as consumers know the very superior quality of the fattened chickens and the high percentage of edible portion on each bird.

UNDER WATER 15 HOURS.

Successful Test of the Submarine Boat Fulton.

New York, Nov. 21.—In the presence of a big crowd which, despite the storm, assembled to witness the emerging of the submarine boat Fulton, that craft rose from the bottom of the bay this morning at 10.30 o'clock with all well and greatly surprised to find there was a term raging. The test of the Fulton's staying powers was highly satisfactory, not only to the officers of the company that built her and the naval officers present, but to those who went to the bottom in the boat. They report there was not the slightest discomfort to them during their more than 15 hours of submersion beneath the surface.

Captain Cable, of the Holland Company, who was in command, said that the boat could have remained down for three months if there was food enough on board. Although there was but six feet of water over the top of the turret those on board felt nothing of the storm. Through the night there was a slight rolling motion to the craft, but this was ascribed to the regular motion of the water and not to the disturbance which was rolling the waves high on the shore.

Members of the crew say they experienced no difficulty in breathing and that the air was all that could be desired and much purer and better than in an ordinary closed room in which are several persons. Every piece of machinery worked to perfection during the night. The men ate two meals under water and enjoyed them. Most of them obtained three or four hours sleep.

Consistency of Conservative Organs.

(Montreal Witness.)

According to a press despatch from Ottawa the Imperial Government is in communication with the Dominion Government with reference to the Dominion's offer to afford certain facilities for recruiting here. It is not time now for the government to show what there is in the assurance of one of its ministers to our Ottawa correspondent that there is a standing offer of a Canadian contingent before the Imperial Government? So far as made known to the public the only offer before the Imperial Government is that it may enlist troops in Canada if it is willing to pay the whole expenses. Even this offer is limited by the vetoing restriction that the Canadian Government will appoint the officers for any force so enlisted. According to this our English fellow citizens may do all the paying if all the patronage remains with our government. We must confess that we should be greatly relieved to hear that some less beggarly offer of imperial aid had been made. But where are the noisy demands of the Conservative organs now? They keep harping away on the one poor string of Mr Blair's Royal car made in the United States as though they had nothing more to reproach the government with than riding in a car that would otherwise be in a coach house. They were deafeningly noisy when there was no war, nor any expected. Who has bid them call off their dogs?

LUCKY FIND.

Lady Minto's Locket Recovered.

Ploughkeepsie, N. Y., Nov. 21.—Several days ago, while the Earl of Minto, Governor-General of Canada, with Lady Minto, were on their way to New York, to bid farewell to Lady Ellen Elliot, who was to sail from New York, Lady Minto lost a gold locket which she prized highly, because it contained a lock of her dead child's hair. While combing her hair the locket became detached and dropped into the wash bowl, and before she could recover it had fallen through the pipe down on the track. The train at the time was between Hyde Park and Poughkeepsie. When the train stopped at this city, the Earl of Minto alighted and told the station agent that he would pay a reward for the return of the much-prized piece of jewellery. The locket was found by N. L. Pamiatier, foreman of the section between Hyde Park and Poughkeepsie. He picked it up near Roosevelt's Point, and sent it to the superintendent's office, and it was restored to Lady Minto. Pamiatier has received a cheque for \$25 from the Earl of Minto.

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