

Changes in Our School System

The lecture in the assembly hall of the Lindsay Collegiate Institute last Friday by Mr. J. J. Tilley, inspector of Model Schools, under the auspices of the County of Victoria Educational Association was only fairly well attended. Those who did attend were more than repaid, however, as they listened to one of the most interesting and instructive addresses ever heard in Lindsay. Mr. Tilley spoke on the changes in our educational system, both in the past and future, and throughout the evening showed himself to be a thorough master of his subject.

In the absence of the President the chair was occupied by Mr. W. D. Hickson, of Bobcaygeon. Before introducing the speaker of the evening, he called on Mr. Percy Mulhern who rendered a very beautiful solo. Miss Florence Pratt acted as accompanist. Mr. Mulhern was heartily encored. The chairman then introduced the speaker of the evening.

Mr. Tilley said he was very pleased to be present and address an audience of Victoria county trustees and teachers, and although the audience was rather small, still he was sure those present were deeply interested in the subject.

"There have been a number of changes in the training of our teachers during the last few years, such as, some for the better and some for the worse. The training of our teachers became compulsory when the model schools were first established, some thirty two years ago. The teacher in olden days tried to make himself or herself as learned as possible but during the last few years there has been a big increase in third-class certificates among our teachers. Today seventy-six per cent of the rural school teachers hold third-class certificates. During the last few years third-class certificates have increased by six hundred and thirty-three. It therefore, does not come as a surprise when it is told that the results in the rural schools have not been a success. If we wish to have better schools we must put in a better class of teachers. We cannot expect to have good schools and have poor teachers teaching them. Why don't the teachers go on and train further? Some people say that if the teachers are compelled to go on and take second class certificates that the result would be a shortage of teachers. Between 1900 and 1200 teachers are required to fill the vacancies year by year. To-day there are 1148 pupils in attendance at the six normal schools in the Province of Ontario, and more would have attended had there been accommodation near at hand. Another question raised is whether or not those boys and girls in poor circumstances will go on and train if they are compelled to take a longer course. Can they meet the expenses entailed with such a course? That is no reason. The state is not bound to make the training of a teacher so that the poor boy or girl can get a training. The state is bound to make the training of a teacher so that the boys and girls of our country will be properly taught. Are the people of this country willing to have their children taught by a teacher who has only a poor training, just for the sake of helping a poor neighbor? The boys and girls are the ones we have to look after, and we should see that the teachers are trained thoroughly. Why is it that the doctors, lawyers and other professional men have to pass three, four and five years in our universities? How is it that they have to pass examinations showing them to be thorough masters of their occupations? Because the public good demands it. Why then not our teachers? The salaries of our teachers in the rural districts has increased considerably during the last few years. The average salary of the male teacher is \$485 and the female teacher \$379. "I hope," said the speaker, "that the time will never come that the teachers are compelled to teach for such meagre salaries as they have been receiving in the past." The people of Great Britain today are greatly excited over the state of affairs in Germany. They have more to fear from Germany's troops. If it were not for the technical schools of Germany to-day that country would be far worse off than she is now. In all our big industries there are a number of Germans employed as foremen on account of their technical training. We should have more of technical training in our schools today. Of course we are beginning where Germany and the other European countries began. In many of our large schools we have manual training. That is one subject which should be taught in all our schools, and sooner or later it is bound to come. It will pave the

way for technical instruction which is very necessary in this fair land. The teachers of our land need training. It does not take much to hear a child read, to watch him write, but if a child is going to get a thorough education the teacher must be thoroughly trained. It is the intention of the Department of Education to arouse more interest in the school work and without a doubt a brighter day is dawning for the school teacher throughout our land.

At the close of the excellent address a hearty vote of thanks was moved by Rev. Archdeacon Casey

Will Erect Nurses' Home

Lindsay was visited Friday by the town's greatest benefactor, and a former resident, in the person of Mr. James Ross, who together with Mrs. Ross and Mr. and Mrs. John Ross arrived in town this morning on their special car.

Mr. James Ross, who very generously presented the town with the Ross Memorial hospital, which is the pride of our citizens and a source of admiration to visitors, met the board of governors of the institution this morning, who together with the members of the party visited the building and were cordially received by the lady superintendent. The visitors were delighted with the conditions existing at the hospital, and had nothing but warm words of praise for all those associated.

A NURSES' HOME.

Afterwards Mr. James Ross had a conference with the board of governors and it will certainly be gratifying news to learn that the citizens are again to be benefitted by his whole-souled generosity. Mr. Ross practically decided at the conference to send on an architect at once to go over the grounds with a view to the erection of a nurse's home in connection with the hospital. This will supply a long felt want in connection with an institution which is a credit to its founder and which will stand as a noble monument to the generosity of one of nature's noblemen.

The Peterboro Cheese Board

It was not a sensation that was sprung at the opening meeting of the Cheese Board Wednesday morning at the Bank of Montreal chambers for the matter of the suspension of Mr. Jas. Cook had been decided upon at the annual meeting of the Cheese Board. But it was the subject of a great deal of discussion and Mr. Cook strenuously objected to the ruling passed at the annual meeting going into effect. He said he had not committed any greater infraction of the rules, nor as great, as other buyers, and claimed he should not have been suspended for three months without being given a hearing. Mr. Cook bought 1,000 boxes of cheese and didn't take them when the price dropped.

This was, of course, an offence against the regulations of the board, but Mr. Cook explained that he was not financially in a position to fulfill his obligations, but that he bought the cheese legitimately and with honest intentions.

A motion of Mr. Buck seconded by Mr. Moore, was made to the effect that the resolution adopted at the annual meeting of the board be rescinded.

Mr. John Riddell said the matter had been fully considered at the annual meeting.

Mr. Riddell's opening remarks were interrupted by Mr. Cook, who said that a buyer and salesman, according to the rules of the board, had no voice in the management of its affairs. Mr. Riddell resumed his seat, and the president decided that he should be allowed to express his opinion.

Mr. Cook and another buyer were referred to by Mr. Riddell as not having done their business in a thoroughly satisfactory way.

"Name him," said a voice in the audience. "He has as much right to be mentioned as anybody else."

Mr. Riddell referred to the buyer as Mr. Weir. He said the board would make a great mistake to change the rulings of the annual meeting on the spur of the moment.

Mr. Cook spoke in defence on his transactions.

Mr. Switzer said it would be a great mistake to overrule the decisions of other buyers, he thought the motion should be confirmed. The matter had been threshed out in detail at the annual meeting.

Mr. Cook again spoke for himself, and said the annual meeting had done wrong in suspending him without giving him the opportunity to

defend himself. On general vote the suspension was upheld, an amendment to the motion that Mr. Cook be reinstated, the amendment being moved by Messrs. Anderson and Charlton, was carried over the motion to quash the suspension.

THE CHEESE BOARDED.

There were 1001 boxes of cheese boarded. This is only a medium offering, but the highest price of the morning's sale, 12c. was a good one. The buyers present were Messrs. Fitzgerald, Gillespie, Watkin, Riddell, Weir, Morton, Cook, Kerr.

The Khan on Modern Holiday

The Khan says: The near approach of a great holiday gives occasion for the judicious to think much.

The love of holidaying with some folks is a form of insanity—and the forms of insanity are legion.

There is no doubt that a certain type of criminal is more or less insane and for his own good and the welfare of the public should never be allowed outside of prison.

And there are thousands of people who are not criminals by any manner of means who should never be allowed to take a holiday—anyway, not unless they are chaperoned and guarded in some way. A holiday when following their own sweet will, does them no good; does them, indeed, a great deal of harm. They do not get over it for a long time, or till the next too-frequent holiday comes round.

There are folks who are always getting in front and in the way of men and things, and a holiday is a great day for them; and finally, be it train, auto, swing boat, trolley, saddle, teeter, fence, or whatever it may be, they will fall off, or on, or into something before the day is done.

Some of them will sass the umpire or the referee or the police and get clubbed.

A few of them will be sure to get on the wrong boat or train, and they will be carried into unknown lands while they shriek and wail, and even if they don't do that they will lose their tickets and cause no end of trouble and confusion.

They will get their pockets picked or they will stick their heads out of windows and lose their hats and sometimes get their heads pulped as well.

If it be a girl, ten to one she will get seasick, or swingsick or lovesick or lemonsadesick or jealous and she will be dissatisfied, and cross and will want to go straight home before she gets half way.

Or if it be a baby—and holidays are death on babies—it will be too hot or too cold, or maw won't be able to find baby's comfort, and the young one will yell and squeak and choke and kick and will be the cause of curses not loud but deep.

The trouble is that people don't holiday rationally. They go too far away from home for one thing; they get excited or overheated or chilled, as the case may be. They get lost, or lose someone else, and many of them eat too much and others drink far more than is good for them, whether it's beer, milk, iced tea or pop.

The curse of a public holiday is canned salmon sandwiches, immature fruit, ice cream, ice water from the car tank, cheap fares and booze.

The last two are the greatest.

If there were cheap fares all year round, or even cheaper fares, so very many people would not be induced to crowd into hot, unsanitary boats and trains, and risk and lose the happiness of one sweet day at home.

And the booze is always had on a big holiday. The ten thousand flasks in ten thousand hip pockets are in a class with concealed weapons. The holiday bottle of booze never misses fire and always, hits someone.

Young people ought to be taught to holiday sanely and save themselves a headache or a heartache the next day.

And they should get home that night and go to work as usual next morning.

At the Locks

The fine weather which has prevailed during the last few days has been a great help to the men working at the locks. The water is now lowered considerably, and it will not be long until it will be low enough to allow the workmen to proceed with the pier work. Some thirty men are now employed on the work, and more will be taken on in the near future.

Rainbow chasers get at least a run for their money.

Farming is lots of fun—unless you have to do it for a living.

The wife of a baseball player need never lack for a muff.

Mr. J. Campbell's Excellent Paper

Educational Matters Dealt With in a Racy, Original Manner

The following is the excellent address of Mr. J. Campbell, of Woodville, delivered at the Victoria county educational association convention.

Let me assure you that it is a new and unusual experience to me, in being present at the convention, and taking part in the discussions. When it is stated that I have not been directly interested in public school work for years past, other than acting as secretary-treasurer for a long period, you need not expect my grasp of existing conditions will be as clear and definite as might be the case if we had children attending those years. Still, it has been my privilege to mingle more or less with young men and maidens in connection with departmental work, and while doing so I have always endeavored to study people as well as the other requirements. The conclusions arrived at in so doing, is this, that so far as my judgment informs me, pupils passing out of the public schools during the past twenty years are not so well fitted for their life's work in the way of practical education as those leaving school forty years ago. Why so—if so—is a most important question for parents and trustees to consider.

Long ago the aim more largely was to turn out of the common school scholars fairly well trained in mind to enable her or him to engage, in the ordinary pursuits of life, with the right kind of knowledge stored up to be used in making work easier and more effective.

The aim then, far more than now, was to turn out of common schools finished products of minds, capable of taking up life's work without afterwards attending night schools, commercial colleges, and taking courses in connection with correspondence schools. Nowadays it appears to me that the interests of the 95 pupils whose school education ends with the entrance examination is largely sacrificed to the advantage of the 5 who go on for so-called higher education. That is to say, the aim in the present day common school teaching is to lay a broad foundation of many subjects for the benefit of the five who go to higher schools, while the ninety-five whose education—as the word is usually understood—is thereby sacrificed.

Why are the ninety-five allowed to suffer? Teachers are certainly not to blame. They carry out the instructions of the educational department, while those in charge there do what they thing the country demands. It therefore rests with the trustees and parents to demand justice for large majority of those who in a few years from now will be the strong backbone of our splendid province.

Spending a day some years ago with a bank manager, then in charge of a branch in this town of Lindsay, he, in discussing this question, stated that for his part he would greatly prefer having an old Scotch dominie teach his children the three outstanding essentials viz., reading, writing and arithmetic, than all the new-fangled subjects which were at that time being introduced into our schools.

To me it seems that a knowledge of simple bookkeeping is the next in importance to the three above-mentioned. I verily believe that the happiness of many a home is destroyed by the lack of the life-partners being educated in their school days to understand how to make their expenditures correspond with their incomes.

The old story of Jack and Mary illustrates that he giving half his salary to his wife to run the home made the conditions of a correct account being kept by her, and subject to his inspection any time he wished was quite agreeable to Mary. One month passed and Jack one evening asked for a look at the account book. You may imagine his surprise in seeing on the one side, "Received from dear Jack, \$50," and on the other page, "and spent it all."

On inquiring I find that no bookkeeping is now taught in our public schools not even during the year after a pupil passes the entrance examination, when he or she may go on, and take up fifth class work.

Another practice in our earlier school days was a thorough drilling in mental arithmetic. That is a line of education now wholly neglected. Looking back to my own school days and seeking to reckon what studies have proved the more useful to me in after life, bookkeeping and mental arithmetic training, can be mentioned as outstanding helpers, in carrying on my work on the farm. That they are discarded



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batllewick. A Scotchman, a Presbyterian and a Grit—truly a great combination.

Speaking of names, especially the name McNab calls to remembrance an incident that occurred in the early history of our country. Sir Allan Napier McNab, of Dundurn, Hamilton, the outermost suburb of Toronto, was premier of Canada and thought himself no small potatoes. He aped the old country squires in this living and was very particular as to the deference due him and his. One day the chief of the clan, was globe trotting, called at Dundurn, and sent in his card, which had written on it, "The McNab." After being entertained by Sir Allan he in turn called on the chief and sent in his card, "The Other McNab." Yea verily these Scotch are a great bunch.

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