

**NEW ADVERTISEMENTS**

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**The Liberal.**

RICHMOND HILL, Thursday, March 19, '86.

**OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.**

It is perfectly astonishing how much may be achieved simply by dint of repetition. Let a thing be but affirmed, over and over, it is certain to find before long hosts of advocates and supporters. Let a thing be as persistently denied, soon it will require no little courage to assert it. A case in point is our Provincial system of Education. Again and again we have been told that one might as well seek to paint the lily or to add perfume to the rose as to attempt to improve it in its essential features. But the voice of numbers is not the voice of logic, and sound argument and mere assertion are as far asunder as the poles.

To us it is an encouraging sign that occasionally some one appears bold enough to dispute the absolute perfection of our much vaunted machinery of public instruction. It is true that up to the present no one seems to have clearly realized just what its great defects are; it is equally true that very many have very clearly realized that the results obtained are extremely meagre in comparison with the money spent. Ontario expends yearly for a population of less than two millions over five hundred thousand dollars for educational purposes. Yet the number of those really educated is quite insignificant. Here is proof positive that there is something grievously wrong in the very foundations of this highly lauded system. What is it? We make answer as follows:—

Our whole theory of education is based on these five monstrous fallacies.

1. All children are capable of attaining an equally high standard of instruction.
2. All children are alike desirous of reaching this standard.
3. It is better to give a smattering of the whole curriculum of studies than to teach three or four branches of it thoroughly.
4. The object of all good teaching is the imparting of knowledge.
5. The best and only test of mental progress is the conventional examination.

Need any wonder be felt that in spite of good school houses with all means and appliances to boot, our population continues to be practically uneducated? Need any wonder be felt that Public Schools turn out thousands to whom it seldom occurs that the words of a writer have any meaning, or, what is still worse, who never dream of questioning or weighing the sentiments and reasons of what they do read? Need any wonder be felt that High Schools produce little beyond a motley superficiality? Need any wonder be felt that, as a rule, a University graduate and a well educated man are two vastly different beings? Assuredly, no. Our limited space prevents us from a full consideration of this vitally important subject. It is our set purpose, however, as time and circumstances permit, to return to it, and again and again return to it, until we have convinced our readers that they have been hugging a delusion and a sham.

**THE BUDGET.**

Never was there a more unenviable position than that of Sir Leonard Tilley in making the Budget speech. Everything was against him, facts and figures, and what must have been bitterly galling to him, all his boastings and promises of a never-failing surplus came back boomerang-like pitilessly pelting him on all sides. The whole country is now weighed down by an alarming commercial crisis, thousands of workmen are crying out for bread, the agricultural prospects were scarcely ever more gloomy, the manufacturing industries are dying under a hot-house induced competition, and finally, the maw of the C. P. R. Syndicate is wider than ever, and more greedily than ever it is bawling *Give! Give!* Our debt now amounts to the snug sum of over \$260,000,000, and it is growing apace. Our revenue is rapidly decreasing. And yet in the face of this appalling state of affairs, the luckless Sir Leonard

was forced to twist his features into a grin which must have been a hideous mockery of joy, and blandly proclaim that under the N. P. and the C. P. R. the country is safe and prosperous. Nay more, the Minister of Finance instituted a comparison between Canada governed by Sir John Macdonald, George Stevens and Yankee Van Horne, and Canada governed by Messrs. Mackenzie, Blake and Cartwright, of course entirely to the disadvantage of the latter. Pretty work this for an old Liberal! Sir Leonard would have done much better to have remained with his old friends for ever in opposition than to be lifted to the heights of power by the hands of his old-time opponents.

The whole speech was intended only for blind and interested partisans. Facts were systematically ignored or distorted, and the arguments mainly relied on were those which are given by a large majority in the House.

**GOVERNMENT'S LOAN TO EXCHANGE BANK.**

We commend to the attention of our readers the speech of Mr. Mulock, M. P. for North York, on the Dominion Government's loan to the late Exchange Bank, resulting in a loss of \$300,000. It will be remembered that the sum two hundred thousand dollars was advanced to this institution on no security whatever, and that an additional sum of one hundred thousand dollars was given on a security which would be accepted by no good man of business. Mr. Mulock's statement of the case was very powerful. He betrayed, and seemed to feel, no political animus. His assertions were temperate, well-weighed, and beyond dispute. And on the conclusion of his speech, it was evident

1. That the Finance Minister was culpably ignorant of the Bank's affairs at the time of the loan.
2. That Sir Leonard acted in this matter in the spirit of a man who is reckless in dealing with public funds, although careful enough in placing his own.
3. That the country has lost this large amount with no other return than the knowledge that Mr. Craig, and *et hoc omne genus* were thereby enabled to lead a happy and dishonest life.

**MAYOR OF MONTREAL.**

The recent mayoralty election in Montreal must afford much consolation and encouragement to the noble army of optimists. The contest was between the notorious Beaudry and the young and energetic editor of *La Patrie*, Mr. Beaugrand. Both are Frenchmen. The former received the undivided support of the Conservative press, the latter of the Reform and Independent journals. The former stood high in the favor of his church, the latter was stigmatized as a freemason, a free-thinker and a republican. But never was the superiority of truth over all other weapons more signally displayed than in the triumphant return of Mr. Beaugrand by the handsome majority of four hundred and one votes. Mr. Beaugrand is a Liberal in politics, and naturally has a perfect horror of church interference in matters purely secular.

Holloway's Corn Cure is the medicine to remove all kinds of corns and warts.

**MAPLE.**

From our own Correspondent.  
Mr. Amos Shunk has sold his imported stallion, "Pride of Drummond," 3 years old to D. Grainger & Co. of Honeywood, Township of Mulmur, Co. of Simcoe, for \$1600. Mr. Shunk will likely return to Europe for horses, either next summer or the summer following.

Richard Baxter had a very narrow escape on Saturday last, in the Saw mill here. He was passing under a shaft just where it was coupled and did not stoop low enough; a bolt struck him on the head and knocked him senseless. He was taken to Dr. Orr's Office and had his wounds attended to; he is now at work again.

Mr. J. E. Clubine, Head teacher of our school has been ill during the week and has gone home for a few days. M. J. McQuarrie has been teaching in his place. Joseph Coleman has bought a lot in the village on Main street and is building a residence this summer.

Dr. J. O. Orr, who has lately returned from London, England, where he has been completing his studies, is spending a few days with his brother, Dr. R. B. Orr.

C. A. Livingstone, Plattsville, says: "I have much pleasure in recommending Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil, from having used it myself and having sold it for some time. In my own case I will say for it that it is the best preparation I have ever tried for rheumatism."

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