

New Advertisements.

The Liberal.

RICHMOND HILL, August 11, 1896

ONE SIDED.

The public are continually crying out for clean sports, and particularly for clean lacrosse. It is often claimed that participants in athletic sports do not show that fairness towards opponents that should be expected in friendly contests. The press has done much to cultivate a spirit of honorable rivalry. It is to be regretted, however, that some village and town newspaper men seem to think that their duty is not only to shower lavish praise on their own local team but to belittle both the play and the actions of all opposing teams. This may win popularity from the unthinking class, but fair-minded men will not condone it, and such unfair criticism will do much to lower the standard of our national game.

A couple of weeks ago Stouffville lacrosse team played a match with Richmond Hill. When we say that they played fine lacrosse and conducted themselves on the field like gentlemen, it gives them no more than justice. But it need not be forgotten that their opponents were also gentlemanly, and were in every way worthy of their steel.

A short description of the match might be given as follows:—The teams met and decided on a gentleman from Toronto as referee. The play, as far as lacrosse goes, was almost free from roughness on both sides, and not an angry word was to be heard. The umpires and referee gave the match to Richmond Hill by 2 games to one. Stouffville's field-captain took his men from the field, as he disagreed with the referee's decision in the last game.

Now what do we find in the Stouffville Sentinel of last week: That "the match was a tie," that "the referee was a resident of Richmond Hill," that "Richmond Hill depended on roughness to win the match," that "two or three men pounced upon Smith and knocked the ball out of his stick;" that the same "Smith was the victim of some ungentlemanly slugging;" "Smith's injuries were such as to require his removal to the hotel," &c., &c.,

People who were not present would imagine from the above that Smith was carried off the field in an ambulance, whereas he trotted up the field like any other plucky player would do. As to the charge that some of the Hill boys actually "knocked the ball out of Smith's stick" we must acknowledge the crime (?) although we never knew before that it was not allowable.

The Sentinel should learn to take a thrashing gracefully, and then if it is necessary to publish it, to give a true account of the whole affair.

THE PLEBISCITE.

On the 29th of September the electors of this country will have an opportunity of marking their ballots Yes or No on the following question: Are you in favor of passing an Act prohibiting the importation, manufacture or sale, of spirits, wine, ale, beer, cider and all other alcoholic liquors for use as beverages?

Leaving politics out of the case we think the Dominion Government is to be commended for submitting the question to be decided by the people themselves. A plebiscite is seldom taken on ordinary questions, but as there is such a diversity of opinion relative to the advisability of passing a prohibitory measure, surely nothing can be fairer than an honest endeavor to find out the will of the electorate and act accordingly.

There are those that say that if the Government is sincere it should introduce a prohibitory measure in the House, and stand or fall with it. This is asking too much of any government. The staunchest temperance men in the country realize that prohibition will be a failure if it has not the sympathy and support of a large majority of the people.

Most thoughtful people now-a-days are free to admit that strong drink brings more misery and more severe affliction to mankind than anything else we have to contend with. It is not denied that more than half the insanity, ignorance, poverty and crime are due to its improper use. The question "Is intoxicating liquor a curse?" could be easily settled, but there are conscientious people who differ as to the best means to abolish it. This class of men are not in opposition to the temperance movement, but they fear that the temperance sentiment is not strong enough to secure the enforcement of a prohibitory law. We feel ourselves that the important question is not, "Are you prepared to vote for prohibition?" but "Are you prepared to assist in the enforcement of the law if enacted?"

For this reason we would like to see the question discussed by those in favor of prohibition and those against it. We shall be pleased to give a reasonable amount of space every week in THE LIBERAL, believing that before the vote is taken the people should be made thoroughly acquainted with both sides of the case.

Reply to Mr. Coombs.

To the Editor of THE LIBERAL:

In your issue of the 21st ult., a letter appeared from the pen of Mr. Coombs re. Public School Leaving Examinations and their results. I have been looking for a reply, but none having thus far appeared, I venture to present another side of the case.

Mr. Coombs has made the strongest possible showing from the standpoint of the High School, but there are other points of view from which his arguments do not appear so strong. Your correspondent states the lamentable failure of P. S. L. candidates in the recent examinations, which he attributes to inefficient work done by the Public School teachers. To such a conclusion we decidedly demur. That there have been cases of inadequate preparation is, no doubt true, but that this explains the widespread and deplorable failure we think is far from correct. The fact that the failure has been so general leads us to look for a cause other than that suggested. Surely in the county of York, to which Mr. Coombs particularly refers, a county in which we have some of the most capable teachers, there ought to be some exceptions to this inefficient work done; and that there seems to be no such exceptions is significant. We believe another cause is responsible for the failure. It has been an open secret for some time that P. S. L. work, for apparent reasons, has not been regarded favorably by High School teachers and officials. The P. S. L. examinations, as I understand it, are controlled by High School teachers; therefore this want of sympathy has found expression in a most practical way. This year the climax has been reached, with the result of failure to almost the entire class of Leaving pupils. Look at the facts. Mr. Coombs acknowledges that the papers this year were harder than usual, adding that the candidates seemed to be weaker. Without discussing the latter statement, although it is open to question, let us look at the former. We do not, and should not, object to a paper being hard, providing it keeps within the bounds of what the candidate may reasonably be expected to know, but when it goes beyond that, as some of the papers did this year, it is unfair and unreasonable. Take the arithmetic paper, on which Mr. Coombs said 80 per cent. failed. Competent judges, when they saw that paper, expressed anticipation of such a result, and I am satisfied no persons were less surprised at the result than the examiners who set the paper. I appeal to Mr. Coombs if it was not an unreasonable paper? Compare it with the Entrance Arithmetic paper and say if one year's study will honestly measure the difference between them? Would the H. S. pupils of Form I make any better showing than did the P. S. L. candidates? Not because our public school teachers have not done efficient work in preparing P. S. L. candidates, but because of a deliberate purpose on the part of examiners to discourage this class of work, has there been such "dismal failure" on the part of the P. S. L. class all over this province.

Now, as to the doing of P. S. L. work in our Public Schools, which Mr. Coombs so decidedly discourages, he says that this provision was intended only for pupils wishing a more extend-

ed course in the Public School without anticipating High School work. Allowing that this is correct, the provision thus made has been most commendable, and no doubt a considerable portion of the candidates this year belonged to this class. But have these candidates been justly dealt with in being subjected to an examination in which failure was inevitable? It was not at this class of candidates that the blow was struck, but they had to suffer for the sake of the cause. How is this "result of honest effort and blighting of well-founded hopes" going to effect the future of those pupils who are just exchanging school days for more active life?

Then as to the other class of P. S. L. candidates, those who do not anticipate going to High School. Mr. Coombs says, "we should never see a P. S. L. pupil enter a High School. If they intend coming they should start as soon as possible after the entrance." Now through our efficient Public School system children are able to pass the entrance very young, sometimes before 10 years of age, and 11 and 12 is quite common. Is a child at that age fit to leave home and live in a boarding house, as most of the class under discussion have to do when they go to High School? If the parent's only object is to secure the best and speediest intellectual training for his child this presents no problem. But to the parent who realizes that he has moral obligations to his child which he cannot hand over to others, there is a problem which Mr. Coombs' letter does not help to solve. Is a parent for the sake of his child's education to be forced to let that child go from under his influence and training just at the time of life when he most needs a guiding hand? The P. S. L. in a measure, helps to solve this problem. Through this the child can still remain under home influences and continue his studies at the Public School.

Another consideration which, to many parents, is of very great importance, is the financial aspect of the question. Some of our best and most promising pupils are the children of parents who are not rich. If these parents have more seriously to consider the question of dollars and cents in connection with the education of their children than their more wealthy neighbors, may be their misfortune, without being their fault. Now under ordinary circumstances it will cost for board, books and tuition, a hundred dollars or more to send a child to High School for a year. To save that amount out of an already meagre income is no easy matter. Are such parents to be blamed for continuing their children at the Public School as long as possible, or are they to have this advantage taken away from them by those who are interested in increasing the attendance at the High School?

But Mr. Coombs says Public School teachers, for want of time, can't successfully take up P. S. L. work, nor was it intended in schools where there are less than three teachers, and he challenges the mention of a single case of its success. I know a lady teacher, without assistant in the school, and holding only a Third Class Certificate, who has, ever since the P. S. L. has been taken up, had her entrance and leaving classes with scarcely a failure at the examinations, though this year her pupils may have suffered in the general slaughter, and that she did not neglect the lower classes in her school is evident from the fact that the trustees gave her an increase of salary each year in order to retain her services. And we have many efficient second class teachers in this and other counties who have made a success of it. Why continue to raise the standard of qualification for Public School teachers if they are not to do any more advanced work? Any successful Third-class teacher can now prepare pupils for Entrance, and if in our public schools nothing beyond that is undertaken, as Mr. Coombs so strongly urges, why require a higher standard?

I write because I feel that a gross injustice has been done to a large class of pupils who have worked hard and should have received better treatment, and an injustice to parents as well who paid for a fair examination for their children and didn't get it. With Mr. Coombs we "exceedingly regret the failure of so large a percentage of P. S. L. candidates" but we decidedly differ as to who is responsible. He holds that it is parents and trustees who allow P. S. L. work to be done in their schools, while we hold that it is the Examiners, who with evident designs have aimed at, and possibly succeeded in "breaking the camels back."

J. W. STEWART.
Maple, Aug. 9th, 1896.

Sherwood

Mr. Mark Wilson spent Sunday with Mr. E. Chapman.

Farmers here are neatly through with their harvesting. A number have threshed.

Mrs. Dr. J. G. Clarke, of Mich., U. S., is the guest of Mrs. Thos. Rupert, Messrs. Bone and Cook of Carrville were in town Sunday evening on their wheels.

Mrs. J. Campbell went on the excursion to Niagara Falls, Wednesday. Messrs. L. Simmer, J. and F. Cline of Toronto spent Monday with friends here.

ARRIVALS.

SAVAGE—At 45 Pacific avenue, Toronto Junction on Sunday, Aug. 7th, to Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Savage, a daughter.

DEATHS.

MORTON—In Richmond Hill, on Monday, Aug. 7th, Jeremiah Morton, in the 63rd year of his age.

See our value in Black Ribbons direct import. Atkinson & Switzer.

Wall Papers!

We are again to hand with a most complete stock of Wall, Ceiling and Bordering Papers in town, at prices that cannot be beaten. Designs and colors new.

Large stock of Furniture, all new designs. A few of the prices speak for themselves: Bed-room Suites, large sizes, \$13.50; Extension Tables, 8 feet long, \$6.50; Bedsteads, \$2.75; Sideboard, large size, 2 rows of drawers, with mirror 16x30, \$9; other furniture as cheap in proportion for cash only.

We keep constantly on hand Mixed Paints in all colors; Kalsomine and Dry Color Brushes, all sizes; Boiled, Raw and Machine Oil, Varnishes, Japans and Turpenines; in fact all Painters' material.

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