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Challenge of the New-born Near East

Free addresses will be given by Eld. M. P. Krikorian, a native Armenian, in the Brethren's (Tunker) church, Gornley, Ont., on Saturday, February 7th, at 7 p.m., and on Sunday at 10.30 a.m. and 7 p.m. These addresses are given by Eld. Krikorian (a prospective out-going missionary to his native land) under the auspices of the Foreign Mission Board of the Brethren in Christ Church. Eld. Krikorian escaped massacre by fleeing to America. He knows intimately the traditions, religious creeds, and the peculiar characteristics of the Armenian people, and is well informed on the social and political problems of the Near East, having lived from earliest infancy in a home where constant fear of the powerful and blood-thirsty Turk filled every heart. Eld Krikorian is an effective speaker, and his message, under the inspiration of the Spirit, grips the closest attention of every audience. Come and hear his narrative. Everybody welcome.

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Re Entrance Exams

EDITOR LIBERAL:
As a teacher of public school work I am interested in the movement that is afoot to eliminate the Entrance Examinations. Your editorial in last week's edition disapproving of this was quite in keeping with my ideas on the subject. To my mind the Entrance examination is not only beneficial but it is essential if we wish to keep our public school education up to the highest standard of efficiency. People argue that it is the work from day to day that should be the test as to whether a pupil is ready to enter High School. This is quite true, but in ninety-nine per cent. of the cases a child who does faithful daily work is bound to pass his Entrance. Then why fear it? There may be a few who perhaps lose their heads, and don't do themselves justice, but our children of to-day are being so educated, at least they should be, that they never reach the stage of self-consciousness which prevents them from doing their best. By weekly or monthly examinations as well as by public recitation before the class daily, they are trained to think only of the subject in hand and not of themselves. Then too it affords both teacher and candidate more satisfaction when he finds he has been successful.

During a period of the war Fourth Book pupils were given a test examination at Easter to see whether they were ready for high school. In every case these papers were marked by the teachers in charge and if the desired percentage was received the child was given his Entrance and allowed to leave school and help on the farms. From one point of view this was a good thing but from an educational view point it was detrimental. In a large majority of cases when they entered high school in the fall they found themselves behind others who had passed the Departmental examination; as a result they became discouraged and a great many of them gave it up. I feel that were our Entrance examinations abolished we would find similar results. One teacher may think her class ready for high school whereas another teacher, with perhaps a little higher standard of work would disagree with her. When examiners are appointed to do all the marking of papers this difficulty is solved and without the Entrance examinations this would not be possible. It also takes a great deal of responsibility off a principal and this is surely worth some consideration.

It was suggested at the Ottawa convention that this abolition of Entrance apply to city and town schools. Why so? Do these people who are putting this before the public believe that our rural school teachers are so inefficient that they could not be expected to have their class promoted by their recommendation? It seems rather inconsistent, when we know that the average age in the country at which a child passes Entrance is twelve while in the city it is fourteen. It looks as if rural Ontario could afford to abolish this examination before the urban school could. I hope, however, that rural school teachers and boards will see fit to have the Entrance examinations continued, or at least to have it optional, so that we who approve of it can take advantage of it.

As far as "cramming" is concerned it seems to me we must "cram" every bit we can into every minute of the day, since so much depends upon our children of to-day in regard to good citizens for our future Canada.

Much can be said on this subject but I have taken a good deal of space and will leave it to be taken up by others interested.

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