

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1909.

IS THERE WASTE IN THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

Last year's report of the Chief Superintendent of Education brought out an extraordinary fact that two hundred and thirty four of the common schools throughout the Province have an average attendance of less than twenty pupils each. Surely the condition of things thus broadly stated is sufficient to challenge attention. It becomes more striking when the details are presented. Here are the facts:

Twenty schools had an average attendance of 19 pupils.

Seventeen schools had an average of 18.

Sixteen schools averaged but 17.

Sixteen schools averaged but 16.

Thirty one schools had an average of but 15.

Twenty four schools averaged only 14.

Twenty five schools only averaged 13.

Twenty four schools only had an average of 12.

Twenty schools averaged but 11.

Thirteen schools fell to 10 each.

Eleven schools averaged only 9 each.

Ten schools averaged an attendance of 8.

Three schools averaged but 7.

Two schools averaged but 6.

Two schools only averaged 4.

Here are 234 schools that fell below an average attendance of 20, and 110 of them fell to 13 or under, with 85 schools that made an average of only 12 or less.

Some years ago it was settled that schools in which the average attendance fell below 20 should not receive the full Government grant, but only so many twentieth parts thereof as their attendance. But, as we are informed, the full grant has been paid, even to teachers who were giving their attention to only from four to six or seven pupils. This seems to be at once a violation of the law and a waste of public money. At best it is a most unfair and unequal division of the money devoted to educational purposes.

While the cost of education has increased and the average attendance at school throughout the Province has diminished by five thousand from its maximum of years ago, and with the great body of teachers demanding more pay, the country can ill afford to be maintaining schools almost without pupils, or with so few in attendance that the cost of educating them runs up to \$40 and \$50 each from year to year.

These facts taken along with the excessive price the people have been paying for school books, call loudly for radical reform in our educational system. It is to be hoped that the Educational Commission, after their long consideration of the subject may be able to report a plan of reform as thorough as their methods of preparing it has been deliberate. The need of reform is certainly urgent.

THE RELIGIOUS LIFE IS THE NORMAL LIFE

It is the common belief that man's brief life on earth is followed by an existence of endless duration and of living consciousness beyond the grave. Along with this is the belief, equally general, that there exists a Supreme Being, Creator and Preserver of all things, Who is all powerful, all-wise and all-good. Religion is a recognition of and allegiance in manner of life to that Superhuman Power, to Whom obedience and service are regarded as justly due.

Beyond this we have the common belief that there are rewards and punishments beyond this present life, and that it is well or ill with those that die, just in accordance with their life while here. This agrees with human experience in the present life. For if we violate the laws of nature our physical system must pay the penalty. And in the moral and intellectual world this also is also true, even in the present life. Nothing truer or more inevitable than the tendency of character to become permanent and it is not reasonable to think that a bad life here can lead either to goodness or happiness here after.

The brevity of this life is a fact of which we are all painfully aware. Even in our own little Province some fourteen hundred persons pass out of life yearly. We sometimes speak of the exodus of our people to other lands, but after all the great and constant exodus is to "the bourne from which no traveller returns." A simple rational, human consideration of these facts goes to show that the religious life is the reasonable and normal life for each and all.

"Nothing in excess" was the motto of one of the great sages of Greece. There may be those who fear that too much attention may be given to religious things. A little consideration will show that there is less to fear on this than on other grounds. There are some who work to excess, many who play to excess. Both work and recreation are good, but excess in sport and pastime is more common than in honest work. There may be and is sad excess in amusements which the many count as harmless, as theatre-going, bridge-playing, dancing and so on. Below these are the destructive vices of drinking, gambling and sexual immorality. In a thousand ways life may be frittered away, made useless, or the moral nature destroyed. A religious life guards against these dangers, and is beyond doubt the happiest life here and with the best prospects in the life beyond.

When Canada has built or bought the three second-class cruisers as proposed and placed one at Halifax, another at Quebec and the third at Vancouver, they will be painfully wide apart. From Halifax to Quebec by water is about 900 miles. If, on the other hand, the three cruisers are kept together, either the Atlantic or the Pacific coast and four or five of our large seaports must be left unprotected.

Allen's Lung Balm is the standard cure for coughs and colds in the States and Canada.

Thousands of Canadians will have read with painful interest the murderous attempt made in India upon the lives of Lord and Lady Minto. Fortunately they escaped injury, but the dangerous conditions there are still existing.

If You Have a Cough, Have Lung Troubles, Have Lost Flesh, Are Threatened with Consumption, Try

The D.L. Emulsion

Miss Clark, Supt. Grace Hospital, Toronto, writes they have used it with the best results.

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They all wonder "where Moore & McLeod get that 69c guaranteed taffeta with their name woven in the selvedge?" It is a bit of a secret, but Moore & McLeod have solved it all right. Makes no difference what mill in Switzerland makes the silk but it does make a difference to buy it at such an all right price and to know that the Moore & McLeod guarantee protects the customer every time. Moore & McLeod 11-12dtr

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We ask you to see our gaiters and leggings in men's, women's and children's. All the different shades and sizes are here in colors, brown, tan, navy blue, bright blue, black and grey in many shades.

We wish you to compare our 10 button lengths in those new shades at 95c with what are sold around at \$1.10. You will find all our other gaiters equally as good value.

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10 1-4 Flute Blankets
Secured below actual value **85c**

What an opportunity to lay in your winter's supply! These are the self same blankets sold in most stores at \$1.10! white or grey 54x72 inch, pair **85c**

Large size blankets
The usual \$1.35 kind **98c**

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7 lb 64x84 white wool blankets extra fine qualities at **\$3.90, 4.50, 5.25, 5.75.**

BEER @ WEEKS.

A Muffler Bargain

We put on sale this morning 15 dozen more of our celebrated imitation hand knit mufflers colors steel grey, pale blue, green, brown and white at

35c cash

We think we STAND ALONE in a bargain of this kind. We will box a limited quantity, say the first 5 dozen sold. If you order by mail allow 4 cts for postage.

Our Bedding is made to our own special order, sanitary conditions—strictest cleanliness, sunlight, air—always sold for just what it is, not what it ought to be at the price.

We are offering some very attractive price-savings in every department all this week.

A Notable Hand Bag

Almost as fast as we can get it from the maker we are selling our patent leather handbag.

It is a 12-inch size, of soft patent leather (black only) covered frame, black mountings, solid leather handle; moire lined and fitted with inside purse.

A more servicable and stylish bag at the price, it is difficult to find each.....**\$1.75**



Women's Tailored Suits \$16.00

10 SUITS for to-morrow's selling, and we will have no difficulty pleasing those who intend to pay about this amount for a Suit. Better are not to be had for the money. Indeed, we have no hesitation in asserting that their equal in style and quality could not be purchased elsewhere for less than \$20.00. Others up to \$24.00

Ladies' black coats with the dash of New American Style \$6.50, 9.00, 12.00 and 14.00.

The right kind of Fur garments, at Paton's. Blankets at buy now prices, at Paton's. The new Fur Caps are here, at Paton's. A store full of top-coat bargains, at Paton's. A master stroke in November selling, at Paton's. What a lot of Sweaters sold here, at Paton's. High grade Furniture at very low prices, at Paton's. A pair of Gloves for every pair of hands in Charlottetown, at Paton's.

PATON'S

If going to Boston or New York see Rogers 11-16drtf

"Mothers are constantly finding out why it pays to buy clothing for the boys at Prowse Bros. Ltd." 11-15d2t.

Charlottetown School of Music

Prof. C. M. Wright, Fellow Incorporated Guild Church Musicians, Licentiate Victoria College Music, London, Director—

Prof. Wright will be ready to receive pupils on November 14th in Piano, Pipe Organ, Violin and vocal culture.

Information as to terms can be obtained from the Secretary.

F. S. MOORE,

Secretary.

10-30dtt12t.

Repair Shop

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G. Elmer Ritchie