

**THE DAILY EXAMINER**

FEBRUARY 6, 1900

**FRENCH IN THE SCHOOLS.**

L'Impartial complains of the manner the Superintendent of Education is doing the important work of examining the schools. Speaking of the examination of the Principal's department of St. Mary's school, our esteemed contemporary says:

"At one o'clock the examination commenced in the superior department, which is under the direction of Mr. Joseph S. Gallant. There was great disappointment here. A school ought to be judged by its superior department; the examination in this department ought to be always thorough. On this occasion it was most superficial. No account was taken of any of the subjects which constitute the essence of a grammar school, such as French reading and analysis, Latin, algebra, agriculture, hygiene, etc. We do not blame the principal in this case, although on his own account he ought to have exacted a thorough examination. The Superintendent of Education is a public servant like other public officials. His inspection expenses are paid out of the public chest and when he goes to examine a grammar school he is not on a pleasure excursion. No, he goes, or ought to go, with the intention of conducting an honest examination in order to give satisfaction to teacher and rate-payer alike. The Superintendent in this case committed a monstrous injustice in treating his duty so lightly, and we ask ourselves what means is he going to have recourse to to give a complete account of a department which was only examined partially?"

L'Impartial is particularly displeased because the French language was slighted not alone in the Principal's department, but in all the departments. In this it will have the sympathy of all who appreciate the advantage of a knowledge of the French language in this Canada of ours, where it is the mother tongue of a large proportion of the people. As English people would feel in respect to the slighting of the English language, so the French people naturally feel in respect to the slighting of the French language. A great deal of attention should in our opinion be given in the schools to French. In the French districts it is, of course, an essential part of the school course; and in all other districts, those pupils who proceed to the study of the higher branches ought to be encouraged to take French. Much of the good literature of this country is in French and many thousands of our fellow Canadians speak no other language. We wonder that the Superintendent was careless in respect to it,—especially, when the editor of L'Impartial was at the examination.

—Members of parliament have received from the secretary of Dominion Alliance draft of a proposed resolution to be submitted to parliament in favor of the adoption of a prohibitory law to apply to all provinces.

—A copy of the correspondence between the Dominion and British governments in reference to the despatch of the contingent from Canada to South Africa has been submitted to Parliament. According to an Ottawa telegram, the correspondence shows that Queensland was the first to offer a force, then came Victoria, Federated Malay States, Lagos, New South Wales, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Western Australia and then eleven and last on the list came Canada. The curious fact is also developed that the Laurier government did not make an offer of the contingent until they had been "prodded" thereto by Mr. Chamberlain.

**BULLER'S DIFFICULTIES**

Explained by Winston Churchill.

LONDON, Feb. 4.—Mr. Spencer Wilkinson, in the Morning Post, discusses a long despatch from Mr. Winston Churchill, dated at Pietermaritzburg, and describing the situation in Natal. He says:

"This despatch deserves to be closely read. It is an appeal to the public at home, and as it has been passed by the censor, may be taken to represent the feeling of General Buller's army. Mr. Churchill represents the difficulties of General Buller's task in concise terms:—"The enemy will act with common sense. They will place outposts on the hills and keep back their main body until they see the decision of General Buller's movement. Then they will quickly bring up the main body and extemporize what defensive works they can, in addition to such as they have professedly prepared in anticipation of various advances."

**BOERS WATCH BULLER.**

"That is what everyone would expect them to do; and that their main body can ride faster than General Buller's main body can walk, was also pretty generally understood. The consequence is that the Boer army cannot be turned. Wherever it is attacked it can put an entrenched front. According to Mr. Churchill there are 7,000 Boers watching Ladysmith, the same number held ready to resist General Buller, and 5,000 kept in reserve, to reinforce either body at need. Thus General Buller has to attack 12,000 men entrenched on favorable ground. For that purpose, Mr. Churchill thinks he ought to have 35,000 men, instead of 25,000. In other words, General Buller ought to have another division.

"This opinion coincides with the view we have all along expressed—that the centre of gravity of the war lies in Natal, and that a British victory there would be decisive, while a complete British defeat in Natal would have disastrous consequences not easily to be estimated.

"Mr. Winston Churchill's despatch from Pietermaritzburg, in addition to details respecting the position on the Tugela, gives a most interesting survey of the general position. He says:

"The most serious attacks upon the War Office appear unjust. The great army in South Africa is of the finest quality, beautifully organized and equipped in all details, and with excellent artillery. The Boer guns are few, but splendid, and are cleverly handled. The Boers can find the range of moving targets at 7,000 yards, often at the first shot of our guns. We cannot explain how."

**FIGHT AT SPION KOP.**

"In an interesting comparison of British and Boer methods of warfare, as illustrated during the battle of Spion Kop, showing how the British troops were cramped, mixed and disorganized and how the machinery of control was shattered, he says:

"This would not have affected the Boers, each of whom in pursuance of a general resolve either to hold or to evacuate a position, would have acted individually, and quite independently of officers' orders. It was a case of a pack of hounds against a flock of sheep. But the next morning the British battalions were again collected and solid, showing the advantages of discipline. A similar loss would have disheartened the Boers, and have caused a general trek. Herein lies our expectation of ultimate success. The British have great recuperative powers; the Boers have none. The war, therefore, is brought nearer an end even by unsatisfactory operations."

"Mr. Churchill anticipated that the consequence of the war will not be altogether evil, "as there will be a greater increase of respect between the combatants, and contempt, the former wedge of cleavage, will be gone forever."

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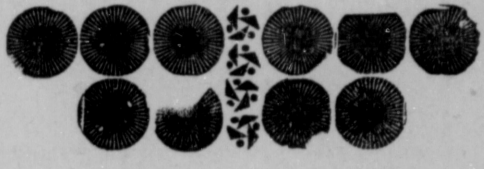
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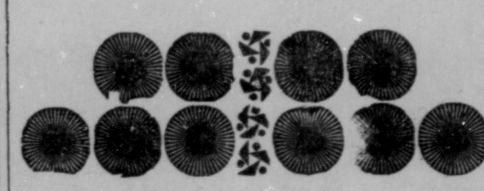
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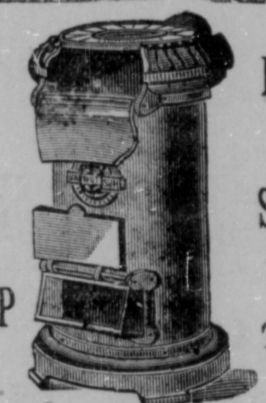
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