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NEW SERIES.

CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1882.

VOL. 10.—NO. 81.

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Jan. 7, '81—eod.

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A complete line of Gents' Furnishings and Felt Hats, cheap, &c. &c. Remember the address, two doors above Apothecaries Hall Corner Charlottetown, Oct. 11, 1881.

## THE EXAMINER

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions or statements of our correspondents.

### Education in Prince Edward Island

To the Editor of the Examiner.

SIR,—Please allow me space in the columns of your valuable journal to call attention to certain features in our education system, which are not the best that can be found.

Education, I believe, has been more carefully attended to in Prince Edward Island this last year than ever before. Under the able, careful and impartial superintendence of our present superintendent, it has made many rapid strides in the right direction. But it is the opinion of the greater part of the people with whom I have come in contact, that there are a few easily remedied things which are hindering, and will hinder (unless removed) its progress; and it is my purpose to refer briefly to some of these hindrances.

A few years ago the great trouble was the constant changing of

TEXT BOOKS.

But that trouble is abated, and we are now settled down to certain books which are a great improvement on the old stock. But in my mind they are not up to the excellence of the text books of the other Provinces and other places. I have had the pleasure of perusing various books prescribed for use in schools in different parts of the United States and Ontario, and I, with many others, have come to the conclusion that, as far as good text books are concerned, we are far behind both of these places. But I suppose that the country would be very indignant if another change were made, though I believe that the majority of teachers would hail a change with joy, knowing, as they do, that we have a man at the head of affairs well able to make a better selection. Even if a change is not made, the teacher can do much for himself and pupil by procuring school books in use at other places, and by perusing and studying them he can improve himself, and will be helped to improve his scholars. A teacher should not confine himself to the books his pupils are studying out of, especially when they are such as we have. He can gather facts bearing on the lesson (which are not contained in the scholars' text-books) out of other books, and by thus mingling the opinions of different authors, together with what is contained in the scholars' text book, he will make the lesson exceedingly interesting and instructive, and the pupil, without knowing it, has all contained in his own book, together with other information equally as valuable, nicely in his mind. I believe that, to a certain extent, this is what makes a teacher successful. An ambitious teacher does not rest content with the mere finding out whether a scholar has learned what is in his book; but, by numerous examples and illustrations—some original and some obtained from other text-books—he strives to make the child see the point more clearly than he would otherwise do. Of course that is what a teacher is for—that is what he is expected to do. But we cannot expect young and inexperienced teachers, of which there are many on this Island, to have examples and illustrations always at his command, and to have these he should have other books out of which he could get the required examples, etc. It would do the teacher a great deal of good to study the many text books that are to be had, all of which explain things in a different way; but at last it amounts to the same. In short, a teacher should have a library of school books, and other which would be beneficial to him, to which he could refer if there is any matter that bothers him, or if there is anything he cannot see his way clear in explaining to his pupils. And a great many teachers would do well also to take the advice of "S. M. B.," in your issue of the 10th instant. This, I believe, would be beneficial to all teachers, but especially to the young and inexperienced. But there are some unreasonable individuals, who think that nothing in the shape of a sum, or question in grammar, should baffle a teacher. To such I would repeat the difference which (as I once read) exists between a wise man and a fool. The fool thinks he knows everything; but the more wise and learned a man becomes, the more clearly he sees that he knows comparatively nothing.

But perhaps I have wandered too far away from the subject to which I meant to confine myself when I began this article. To return to the hindrances: I have noticed one way in which a great many teachers agree that we are behind the times. I will now notice another: OUR TEACHERS ARE INSUFFICIENTLY PAID. The salaries of the different grades are very small; not large enough to keep a good, energetic, ambitious teacher in our schools for any length of time. If a teacher is a good teacher he soon finds it out, and he soon finds out, too, that P. E. Island is not the place for him to be in when he will have a family depending on him for support. So, as soon as he, by being very economical, gets means to start him at something better, or to go elsewhere to pursue his occupation, he does so; and teaching school is thus made a "stepping stone" to something higher. This should not be the case. The most successful men in any business are the experienced; and if this state of things continues, we shall have very few experienced teachers on the Island. True, we have quite a number of elderly teachers in our ranks, but the cause is easily explained. When they started teaching, there was not such inducements to go abroad as there is at the present time. Is there not a remedy for this? There is, and a simple one, too; and that remedy is, make it a paying business—one on which a family can be supported—and in thirty years' time we will have teachers (who will deserve to have a pension, and who have

retired from the profession) looking through the schools encouraging, cheering, and advising those who are just starting out in the profession. This is the sole remedy, and, till this is done, our best teachers will find a better country to pursue their responsible calling than this. I have heard the idea raised that the teachers in this Province have not to serve such a long time in the Normal Schools as elsewhere, and it does not cost them so much to qualify, therefore they do not deserve so much pay; and I would add they are not, as a rule, as well qualified, either. But this will not remedy the other evil. This, too, is an evil of some importance, and should also be remedied.

OUR TERM OF APPRENTICESHIP IS TOO SHORT, and add this to the evils caused by small pay, and we appear still further in the sea. It is true there are some individuals who would make good teachers without any training, but they are very few, and they must be superior if they cannot learn a little from the experienced teachers placed over them in the Normal School. This I hold is no plea for small salaries; for, if, too, should be remedied, and then it could no longer be used as a plea.

In near all the country schools there is

INSUFFICIENT ROOM

to conveniently accommodate the number of scholars. The schoolhouses are of the old style as well as small, and the furniture is in some cases of the old style, and, where the new style has been introduced, the room is very often too small to have them rightly arranged. When the scholars are in a row along the side of the schoolhouse so close that there is not elbow room, and three sitting at a desk which was meant for only two, there is neither comfort nor convenience for teacher or scholars, and when in this predicament both are working under great difficulties, giving neither a chance to prosper. I need not leave this place to find a schoolroom crowded to the extent that I have described, I need only refer you to the schools in Murray Harbor and its suburbs, especially the one at White Sands, where you will sometimes find fifty-two scholars huddled together in a room not half large enough for that number. The four districts of Cape Bear, Guernsey Cove, Murray Harbor, where a small village has lately sprung up, and White Sands are very thickly settled, and by referring to the Register of those schools for the past few years, a person will find that the number of school children has increased rapidly, and by visiting the children's homes, he will also find that there is a younger generation growing up, which will more than make up for those who are leaving every year, so that there is no fear of the number decreasing, but it will rather increase. Look at the registers of any of these schools and you will find that the number of enrolled pupils is close on sixty, while the "School Act" plainly says that from forty to seventy scholars require two teachers. These districts are anxiously looking forward to the time when there shall be at least one

GRADED SCHOOL

in some central position, so that they can all enjoy the benefit of it. Yes; they are looking forward to that time; and if there is a place on P. E. Island that needs a graded school more than another, that place is Murray Harbor South and vicinity. If something is not speedily done, a great many of the children will have to go with a meagre education, to what they would have if they had a right chance. The teachers cannot be expected to do as well with fifty scholars, in a small room, as with forty, in a house with plenty of room. I have only taken these four schools as examples, because I know more about them than any others on the Island. I have no doubt but that there are others working under difficulties equally as great. Of course it is the district's duty to erect new school-houses when they are wanted; but I do not think they have the power to make it a graded school. Hoping that what I have said will arouse others to agitate the same matter, and thanking you for so much valuable space in the columns of your paper, I remain,

Yours truly,

PROGRESS.

Murray Harbor, Feb. 20, 1882.

Letter from F. T. Newbery.

To the Editor of the Examiner.

SIR.—Your correspondent "Policy Holder," in your issue of the 23rd instant, criticizes the "Card of Thanks" given by Mr. Seaman, to the Imperial Fire Insurance Company, which he denounces as a mean style of advertising, and goes on to say that it is imposing on good nature to require a Policy Holder to sign his name to an advertisement for an Insurance Company.

I would respect an expression of opinion in such matters from a bona fide policy holder, over his own signature; but I entertain great contempt for an anonymous scribbler, who, under the guise of upholding public commercial morals, simply takes advantage of it to ventilate his personal grievance.

In this instance, I am satisfied the author is none other than an Insurance Agent, whose conduct can scarcely be taken as an example of "square dealing," to which he lays claim. In reply to his statement I beg to say that policy holders are not required by the "Imperial" to sign advertisements for the Company. It is purely a voluntary acknowledgment on the part of the assured, when they consider such is justly merited. The publishing of such cards, however, is not confined to this Province, but has been frequently done in other countries, long before "Policy Holder" made his debut as an insurance critic. The Imperial Fire Insurance Company is too well known to require any puffing, either from "Policy Holder" or others; and the publication of such cards as those referred to would not have been deemed justifiable by me, but for the fact that so many claims have recently been disputed and contested by Fire Insurance Companies English as well as Canadian—that a state of unbusiness and suspicion has been created on the minds of the people as to their security in cases of loss.

While taking exception to the questionable manner in which "Policy Holder" brings

this matter before the public, and necessitates my replying, I cannot but feel that he has rather helped to advertise the Imperial Fire Insurance Company than to detract from its good record in this Island.

Yours truly,

FENTON T. NEWBERY,

General Agent of the Imperial Insurance Co., of London, England, Charlottetown, Feb. 25, 1882.

### How a Horse-Dealer was "Done."

Veterinary surgeons (says Mr. Hugh Ferguson in the Irish Sportsman) are frequently exposed to much annoyance from unprincipled sellers of horses. The following anecdote affords an example of an attempt at horse dealing knavery, which met with the punishment most felt by the class to which the culprit belonged—namely, pecuniary loss. Some years ago a veterinarian attended the great fair of Ballinasloe professionally. In the course of the day, during the busiest time of the horse fair, a respectable-looking person called him aside, stated that he had sold a horse for a large price, 150 gns., to an English gentleman, and had recommended the purchaser to have the opinion of the veterinarian in question. After a great deal of preliminary conversation, interlarded with flattery, relative to professional skill and professions of a desire to be of service, &c., he mentioned that the horse he had sold had cast a shoe coming to the fair, and was, he thought, a little tender from having travelled some miles barefooted on the road. The veterinarian surmised that the horse went tenderly he would be obliged to pronounce him unsound, but that if the tenderness resulted merely from the foot being broken from the loss of a shoe, he would advise the purchaser the temporary nature of the lameness, and that most probably the horse would be taken. After a few minutes the seller returned, called the vet aside, and proposed to "stand five and twenty pounds" if he made it all right. The veterinarian's first impulse was to knock the fellow down, but he restrained himself, and said he could not make any promise of the kind. The rogish seller pressed the bribe. The vet at last said he would not commit himself by making any specific promise, but for the money to be given to him at once, and the other might rest assured he "would do what was right." The seller took him into one of the stables of the old police barrack yard, handed him twenty five pounds, and left to bring the horse back for examination. He returned quickly with the animal and the purchaser. The veterinarian having examined the horse, was asked was he not all right. The seller's surprise can be more easily imagined than described when the surgeon replied that the animal was unsound in consequence of being lame in both fore feet from confirmed navicular disease; and also, before the persons assembled, proclaimed the knavish attempt that had been made to induce him by a bribe of £25 to pass the horse as sound. The seller stormed and threatened law, as well as physical force to get the money back, but the vet was not to be intimidated. He said he would spend it by paying for a supper that night at Craig's and giving the rest in charity. He even invited the fellow to partake of the repast, that he might have an opportunity of returning thanks for his health being drunk. He, however, did not make his appearance at the repast.

### Independence.

The "Independence question" is again mooted. Those who feel inclined to regard this subject with seriousness should read and reflect on the following quotation from a speech recently delivered by Sir John McDonald:—

"Independence is a farce. Canada must belong either to the British system or the American system. Here we are with four and a half million people living alongside of fifty five millions; the most unhappy position in which a nation can be placed; the most crushing to its energies and its intellect; the most destructive to its prosperity; is that of living next door to and at the sufferance of a powerful neighbor. Look at Europe, and you see the position which small nations occupy. Look at Belgium and Holland. Belgium trembling for fear France will take her, and Holland in fear of Germany. There is no spirit, there is almost hopelessness in those countries. And I say, looking at the question of independence, that if we had to make a choice between independence and annexation, I would rather that we should have annexation, and join with the United States at once, than be here a small nation, a dependent nation, obliged to raise the phantom of an army and navy, obliged to have foreign ambassadors at an enormous expense, and after a brief existence to be absorbed as Texas and California were absorbed, and as Mexico will be absorbed."

### Special Notices.

PICKLED Cabbage 1½ per quart; Mixed Pickles and Chowchow, by the quart; Cranberries, 5c. per quart.—R. K. FRACE. Feb 18—4f

DAN. DAVIES, JR., has a few tons good Anthracite Coal, which he will sell for cash Feb 18—4f

CANNED Salmon and Finnan Haddies, only 20c. per can.—R. K. FRACE. Feb 18

PEA SOUP (very nice), at Beer & God's. Feb 18

GOOD Cornish at W. P. COLWILL'S. Feb 24 3c

A LARGE supply of flower pots at W. P. COLWILL'S. Feb 23 3c

TRUNKS and VALISES—Young men, leaving the island, will save money by purchasing their Trunks and Valises at L. E. PROWSE'S, 74 Queen Street.

A LARGE assortment of cheap crockery at W. P. COLWILL'S. Feb 23 3c

A WORD to the ladies! Do not exchange your old Sewing Machine for a new one; but fetch it to me and I will repair it and make it as good as new or no charge made.—WILLIAM BROWN, shop on corner of Prince and Grafton Streets, Charlottetown, P. E. I. Nov 17 wky

L. E. PROWSE has just received a very large stock of Christy's, London, hats for spring.