

CANADIAN TEACHER

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COMMENCEMENT DAY.

The first day of school! The rural teacher dons a becoming gown and hastens off to the scene of her next year's labors. Soon the bell rings, in troops the long line of lads and lassies, and the teacher is confronted with a host of "first day" problems. On the manner in which she takes up and solves these problems, depends the future welfare and conduct of the forty-five children entrusted to her care.

The greater part of these problems arises from the conditions that prevail in every rural school. The little ones have left an atmosphere that was free from the restraint that must come with the beginning of regular school work. How can the children be led to self-control and thoughtful behavior without hampering the freedom that is part of the natural heritage of every child? There are rules that must be observed, a certain manner of regulating and ordering the many activities of school life, and these things should be learned quickly and happily if the child is to enjoy a profitable school year. How is all of this work to be accomplished?

In solving this problem, the teacher is hampered by the fact that she is a perfect stranger to all or most of the little folks who enter her room. In addition to this fact is the still weightier one that behind each child stands a strange mother with whom the teacher must co-operate for the benefit of the little one. Often the school-room is over-crowded—a condition which brings many perplexing questions of its own. How shall the pupils be seated to the

best advantage? What shall be done in order that the teacher may quickly become acquainted both with the children and their parents? If the teacher is entering upon her first year in a new position, there are many other problems that will come up for solution, for perhaps she must learn the ways of a new Inspector or principal and the rules of a new building as well as the social requirements of a strange community. It is well for the teacher (especially in the first primary grade) if she be the possessor of good judgment and an optimistic spirit.

During the first few weeks of school, there are many conditions that should be thoroughly established. In the heart of every true teacher dwells a fervent desire to make the school-room a loved place wherein every child may find both knowledge and enjoyment. The senses of the children must be quickened in order that all of the teacher's commands may be promptly obeyed. The child must acquire that confidence in the teacher that will enable him to express himself most freely. During the first days of his school life, the pupil should be given a sense of responsibility in connection with his work. Not only should each task be completed but it must be well done before it can meet with the teacher's approval. Habits of punctuality and regularity in attendance can easily be formed very early in the year and should be maintained throughout the term. If the beginning work has been carefully done, the end of the first month will find the school well organized and the teacher and pupil enjoying the daily work.

THE TORONTO-SUDBURY BRANCH OF
THE CANADIAN PACIFIC
RAILWAY.

On the fifteenth day of last June another important link was added to Canada's wonderful chain of railways in the opening

daily by large numbers of townspeople and visitors of Parry Sound. This was all the more marked as the erection was very similar to that of the Quebec bridge, except in a smaller way, and under almost the same engineering conditions as that of the big bridge across the St. Lawrence, which collapsed

East End.

Middle Section.

West End, showing Cantilever Section over Seguin River.



THE NEW C.P.R. BRIDGE
Spanning the Seguin River and part of the town of Parry Sound.

of the new C.P.R. branch connecting Toronto and Sudbury. Now passengers can travel from Toronto to Winnipeg over C.P.R. rails for the entire distance.

Our illustration shows the big steel viaduct across the valley of the Seguin River, and over a portion of the town of Parry Sound. It is one of the largest bridge structures in Ontario.

The arrangement and classification of spans is peculiar and made necessary owing to the unusual conditions of the location. The structure consists of 26 spans of various lengths, consisting of 22 deck plate girder spans, two 125 feet deck lattice spans, and two 165 feet deck lattice spans, all resting on ten steel towers of varying heights from 35 feet to 90 feet, and the whole steel superstructure is supported on 47 concrete piers, consisting of two abutments, one at each end of the bridge, five large piers for supporting the heavy spans, and forty pedestal piers, one under each of the legs of the towers.

Three of the big concrete piers are ninety feet in height. The total length of the steel in this bridge is 1,700 feet and the total distance of the viaduct from bank to bank is 2,800 feet.

The height of the bridge from the top of the rail to the level of the water in the bay is about 125 feet.

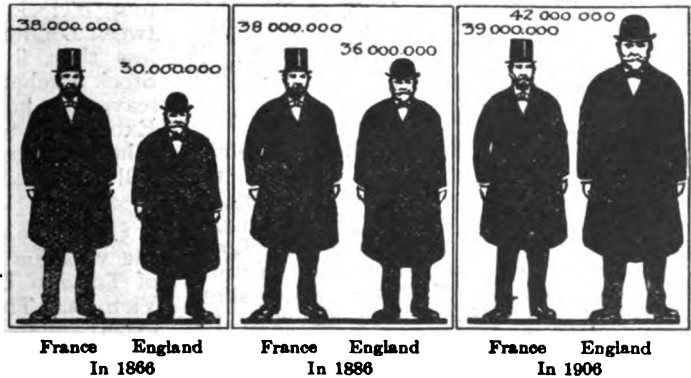
The 165 feet deck lattice spans over the River Seguin was erected as a cantilever without the use of falsework and was a most interesting operation, and was witnessed

about the time the swinging of the cantilever across the Seguin commenced.

THE DEPOPULATION OF FRANCE.

France is sadly dwindling in population. The great Rhône and Garonne valleys are rapidly losing their people. The English press look on this as a sign of France's doom, and the final extinction of the Gallic race.

Great Britain shows a marked contrast to France in this respect. For every hundred Frenchmen of forty years ago there are now but one hundred and three, while for every hundred resident Britons then there are now one hundred and forty. This, in spite of the fact that Great Britain supplies emigrants to all parts of the world far in



HOW GREAT BRITAIN IS OUTSTRIPPING FRANCE IN POPULATION.

excess of France. During the year 1907 France lost by excess of deaths over births nearly 20,000 persons.