

The Catholics insist on public taxation supporting their schools; the non-Catholics persist in fighting the measure. The steady growth of public sentiment is in favor of the latter class, hence there can be but one result to the contest—the abolition of the denominational system as a public policy. It is one of the relics of European methods which has not been readjusted and broadened to meet the conditions in a free land. As to the statement that the supporters of the non-sectarian system are similar to the A. P. A. in this country, it may be said that if it were understood that the members of the anti-Catholic society were being taxed to support the private institutions of their opponents they would get much more sympathy and aid from the people of the United States than they do. As it is, the Catholic attitude in Manitoba offers some justification for opposition to it; and the appeal to anti-A. P. A. sentiment in this country is not likely to reap much of benefit to those who make it. The trend of progress in Canada is to place the Catholics in the same position as other denominations—where they will not handle for sectarian purposes the funds raised from all classes by state authority.

WARFARE'S NEW DEADLY SMALL-ARM.

Of the new rifle, the Krag-Jorgenson, which has been officially accepted for, issued to, and is about to come into use by, the United States army, and which eventually will no doubt be the weapon of the national guard as well, a good deal has been said and written without conveying to the average civilian any accurate idea of its characteristics and effectiveness. For several months past the headquarters of the Utah militia in this city has been in possession of a specimen of the new gun, and while a good many have seen and admired it, very few have had the privilege of shooting it and actually testing its merits. The general reader may therefore be interested in hearing of the results of a recent trial made at the target range at Fort Leavenworth. It shows that, as one commentator argues, "a war between two armies weaponed with this gun would have a resemblance to the famous fight between the Kilkenny cats; when a battle was over there would be nothing left but a vacant space between two fields strewn with dead bodies and rifles; the armies having been annihilated without ever having come within reaching distance of one another."

In the test at Fort Leavenworth the firing was at distances varying from 1,000 to 5,000 yards; that is, from three-fifths of a mile to nearly three miles. When fired the former distance, the bullet went clean through nearly three feet of solid oak, and came out apparently none the worse for wear. At 1,500 yards, which is only 280 yards short of a mile, the bullet passed through a dead human body and afterward went through two feet of solid oak. At 2,000 yards, which is more than a mile and one-eighth, it entered a steel plate one inch in thickness.

This represents a force that is almost

inconceivable in its deadliness. With accuracy of aim on the part of the soldier no force could withstand such a fusillade, or even get within striking distance of the enemy. "Imagine a force," again we quote from the comment above referred to—the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*—"Imagine a force of men supplied with these rifles and ammunition that employs smokeless powder. With nothing to interfere with the aim, these troops would begin to kill each other when two or three miles distant. Firing at a 1,000 yard range used to be regarded as a mere curiosity of sharp-shooting; but with the new rifle and powder, where there is but slight trajectory, and the bullet flies toward its mark in an almost straight line, the bullets fired at 1,000 yards would, if they ranged anywhere between the head and the feet of an advancing foe, go through rank after rank, and each would be sufficient to kill from three to half a dozen men in file. It is an open question whether the bravest soldiers could be brought to face each other under such conditions. A man who is not a coward may go gladly into the rush of conflict where, in the last result, it will be something like a hand-to-hand fight; but it is not a reflection on his bravery if he hesitates to put himself up as a target to be struck down before he can come fairly in sight of his foe."

Truly the art of war is being reduced to the most terrible of scientific achievements, and is becoming so absolutely deadly that nations well may hesitate before resorting to it for the arbitrament of disputes.

THE WHITECHAPEL MURDERS.

The statement of William Greer Harrison, given in a San Francisco dispatch, in which he recounts a story told him by Dr. Howard, of London, offers the best solution to the Whitechapel murders mystery yet presented to the public. The statement seems plausible in many respects, in view of well known facts connected with such gruesome events. Mr. Harrison is hardly likely to place on an eminent physician the responsibility of having told the story unless he actually did so; and if the Dr. Howard is the prominent London physician of that name, it is highly improbable that he would make the statement attributed to him without being convinced of its truth.

There is nothing unlikely about the claim that the Jack the Ripper murders were committed by a person afflicted with insanity; for worse deeds than those have been traced to such a source. The mania which has led to them has been called sadism; this name being given from the marquis of Sade, whose career was one of charity and high morality, so far as was publicly known, for years. Through the disappearance of several girls, however, it was learned that this supposed estimable man had a mania for bestial crimes upon persons of the opposite sex, and then, when his sensuousness failed of gratification, of mutilating the victims of his lust. When this discovery had been made he had already murdered several young girls. This may have been the case

with the physician which Dr. Howard describes. The assertion that the man had lapses of memory as to certain times when the murders might have been committed seems an unusual peculiarity, even among the freaks of insane persons; but they may be possible. At any rate, the Whitechapel murders appears to have ceased, and if their perpetrator is now in a madhouse, his discovery and incarceration may lead to placing a guard upon one more avenue through which horrible crimes have been precipitated upon the public.

THE DANGER IN MILK.

The question whether dangerous diseases are communicated through milk is one of great importance to the general public and particularly to cities depending for their supply from various sources. The subject has been carefully investigated for years under the auspices of the Massachusetts Society for the Promotion of Agriculture, and the report of the results of this investigation is now published.

The inquiry was conducted so as to ascertain whether cows with tuberculous udders could infect with their milk and also whether animals with apparently healthy udders, but having tuberculous elsewhere, could communicate the disease to consumers of the milk. The second was the principal line of inquiry, because with regard to the first one, the facts already known were sufficient to establish the danger of infection.

As to the experiments and the results obtained, the report shows that after 121 microscopical examinations of milk and cream from thirty-six different cows, bacilli were found in the milk from twelve animals. These were all suffering from tuberculous although their udders were free from the disease. Eighty-eight guinea pigs were inoculated with milk from fifteen cows and tuberculous developed in twelve cases. Six out of the fifteen cows communicated the disease. Experiments in feeding milk were made upon rabbits, pigs and calves, with the result that four per cent of the rabbits, fifty per cent of the pigs and thirty-three per cent of the calves became infected. An examination of the general milk supply of Boston revealed the fact that of thirty-three samples from various places, tubercle bacilli were found once and that three rabbits out of twenty-five inoculated with milk from mixed sources, became infected. The inference is made that the milk supply of any large city may be supposed to be a source of danger to a large extent.

Circulars were then sent to medical men and veterinarians asking them to state whether they knew of any cases of human beings having been infected with tuberculous through the use of milk. In answer to these circulars 893 physicians replied in the negative, while eleven reported cases of infection by cow's milk and eight knew of cases of infection of infants by the mother. Fourteen veterinarians reported positive cases of infection and nine suspicious ones. This investigation places the matter on a basis beyond doubt and proves that too much attention cannot be given by boards of health to the milk supply of the cities.