

SCIENCE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 1887.

IT IS GREATLY to be regretted that the National Educational Association, at its recent meeting, gave its indorsement to the so-called Blair bill, making provision for national aid to schools in the various States and Territories. This measure has been before the public long enough to obtain thorough discussion; and the opinion of the large majority of intelligent citizens is, that its effect, were it ever enacted into a statute, would be pernicious. The measure has been not unjustly styled a 'bill to promote mendicancy.' It is a bill to impair the self-reliance, and discourage the earnest efforts, of large portions of the community. We have lately taken occasion to call the attention of the readers of *Science* to the alarming increase of paternalism in legislation in the various States. The bill in question is in a direct line with the tendency toward paternalism. We are not among those who assert that the measure is advocated in a demagogic spirit. On the contrary, we believe it to be the outcome of a generous but mistaken intention to do good. We believe the premises on which its supporters base their arguments to be false, as well as that the effects they predict will follow its enactment to be very different from what will actually happen. A resolution indorsing this bill was brought before the teachers at their recent annual meeting, and referred to the appropriate committee. In course of time this resolution appeared, with a number of others, in the committee's report, and was adopted. We are informed that this was done as a mere form, and that the committee's report was adopted without any consideration, merely as a matter of courtesy. If this is so, it is no proper defence. If any teacher objected to that resolution, he should have made himself heard. But the record shows that no objection was made, and that the resolution passed. We repeat that it is very unfortunate that the association took such action. It will greatly lessen public confidence in its representative character.

DURING THE MONTHS in which the tropical tornadoes are most frequent, the pilot chart issued by the Hydrographic Office of the Navy Department will contain reports of experiments in the use of oil to lessen the force of waves during storms at sea. For several years it has been the custom of the office to print monthly on this chart a synopsis of the experience of vessel captains in the use of oil; and the results have in a great many instances been very successful. It has had another effect also. It has stimulated inventors to prepare devices for carrying the oil over the bows of vessels, and has induced a number of dealers in oleaginous fluids to prepare a special brand of oil for this purpose. The receptacle for the oil which seems to be the most useful yet offered to navigators is the design of a Swede. It is said that the British Channel fleet, while cruising in the vicinity of Copenhagen, were supplied with these funnel-shaped bags for distributing oil in storms. The authorities at the American Navy Department have not yet admitted the value of the experiments. A Chicago concern has succeeded in perfecting a combination of mineral and vegetable oils, which is said to be very effective for the purpose, and the Hydrographic Office is advised that it is being extensively carried by steamers on the Lakes during the present season. Thus far there have been very few reports of the effect of experiments on the inland lakes. A new apparatus has been described in the *Yacht*. It consists of a vertical cylinder with numerous small openings, which, by an automatic process, lets the oil flow out as soon as the bow of the ship to which the apparatus is fastened plunges into the water.

THE MONTANA INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR INDIANS.

IN connection with the present movement to introduce manual training as a factor in the common-school education, it is valuable to make note of the testimony to its educational effectiveness derived from experiments in other fields. Its introduction into the colored schools of the South has been followed by most beneficial results, and we now learn of its success among the Indian tribes.

The American Unitarian Association is one of the religious bodies of the country which, since 1874, has had charge of the education of the Indians. This association has nominally been in charge of the Utes. The attempt to establish an industrial school for the Utes failed, however, because of the frequent removal of the tribe, its opposition to all forms of civilization, and the lack of sufficient government support. Mr. Henry F. Bond, the representative of the association, then turned his attention to the Crow reservation in Montana.

The Crow tribe, which numbers about thirty-five hundred, of whom about eight hundred are children of school age, have never had any settled missionary or educational work done among them, except a small government school at the agency. The tribe had been originally assigned to the Methodists; but no work has been done by them, though they, as well as the Catholics, have recently secured mission-sites on the reservation, which will soon be occupied.

The Crows have always been the firm friends and allies of the whites. They have resisted all overtures from other tribes to join them in hostilities, and have always been ready to take up arms against any tribe, even their own friends, who made war on the whites. It is perhaps for this very reason that they have been for so long neglected by missionary bodies, whose efforts have been directed to the Christianization and civilization of those tribes from whom most danger was to be apprehended. As a natural result of this neglect, the Crows are among the least civilized of all the tribes. They cling to their wild ways of life, and are reluctant to settle down to habits of industry. They are sensual and immoral in their practices. But the universal testimony of the twelve agents who have been appointed to the Crows, in the last eighteen years, is that they are docile, good-tempered, and not inclined to intemperance, as are most other tribes, and that they are faithfully endeavoring to adapt themselves to their changed condition. They have agreed to take up allotments, and to build houses on their homesteads, and cultivate the ground. The government has sent out farmers with their families to settle among them, and to instruct them in agriculture and the ways of civilized life; and the agents invariably speak well of their readiness to avail themselves of the facilities thus afforded. Nowhere would there seem to be greater need of missionary and educational work, and Mr. Bond decided that here was the best field of labor. His decision was approved, as were also the location selected and his plans for the erection of an industrial boarding-school building to accommodate from thirty to fifty pupils. The site chosen was on the Big Horn River, on the mail-stage route from Custer Station on the Northern Pacific Railroad, distant seven miles, to Fort Custer thirty, and the Crow agency, on the Custer battle-ground, forty, miles distant.

The commissioner of Indian affairs also approved the location, and promised a contract for Indian pupils. The government will pay \$108 annually for each Indian pupil taught and supported at the school. The annual cost of maintaining the school, with the full complement of fifty pupils, will be from \$8,000 to \$10,000, of which sum the government's payments will constitute one-half.

The building is substantial and commodious, made of hewn cottonwood logs, on a stone foundation, having eighty-six feet frontage, with wings running seventy feet to the rear, forming three sides of a hollow square. The gambrel roof gives a second story