

## MANUAL TRAINING.

RECOGNIZED BY EDUCATIONISTS AS  
A NECESSARY SCHOOL FACTOR.

Where Full Information of the System  
May Be Obtained, and How It Has So  
Far Worked Out in Canada During the  
Past Two Years—Manual Training Not  
Technical or Trading.

A little more than two years ago Sir William C. Macdonald and Prof. Jas. W. Robertson, Canadian Commissioner of Agriculture and Dairying, agreed upon a scheme whereby it was hoped that manual training might be introduced in the public schools throughout Canada. Sir William provided the necessary funds, and Prof. Robertson undertook to carry out the plan. The results so far attained have been encouraging, and the prospects are for the continued steady growth of the work. Manual training, looked upon some years ago as a fad, is now recognized by educationists the world over as a necessary factor in the successful preparation of the young of all civilized countries for the battle of life. Recent articles by Prof. Robertson and Mr. Albert H. Leake, director of the Macdonald Manual Training Schools in Ontario, appeared in The Canadian Magazine, that of the former dealing with the subject, "The Macdonald Manual Training Schools," and the latter with "The Ottawa Manual Training School." The favor with which these articles were received and the desire for further information of many whose ideas on manual training are hazy have led to their publication in a neat pamphlet of 24 pages, a number of excellent illustrations being included. In Prof. Robertson's article considerable attention is paid to the question of education in its general sense, and it, in part, says: "Ideas and ideals for children are gotten from things and from life, more than from symbols, words and books. Efficiency in the all-around development of the child-life is what we all want, and not the taking up of a burdensome multitude of subjects to qualify for passing examinations. Consequently the school courses and methods should be adapted for use in training the whole child harmoniously. It is claimed by those who have had much experience that what is known as manual training can supplement book studies and other influences in that direction. On the other hand, there is a danger nowadays that too much may be made of it and expected from it. Any part of education which has been neglected by-and-by gets its innings, with a likelihood of too much attention for a time. That may account for the enfeebling bookishness so manifest in recent years."

He strongly emphasizes the fact, now becoming generally recognized even by the most prejudiced, that manual training schools are not trading nor technical schools. Nor are they money-making institutions, as the aim is not to turn out an article of a certain value within a given time. The manual training course is, he says, really a series of exercises so arranged as to have educational results.

Prof. Robertson deals with the growth of the idea, as a branch of

the educational system of England, and in this respect says that as a result of visits to England he found that the manual training centres there in 1890 provided for boys from only 50 schools, but in 1900 boys from 5,000 schools were provided for. Incidentally he deals with the progressive agriculture branch of the Macdonald Manual Training Fund and the good results attendant upon its working, and, continuing, details the plan for introducing manual training into the public schools of Canada, made possible through the generosity of Sir William Macdonald. He says: "The purpose was to furnish an object lesson of manual training in the public schools of at least one town or city in every Province in Canada for a period of three years. Sir William provided a fund fully adequate for that scheme, including the equipment of benches and tools, the necessary improvement of the rooms, the salaries of the instructors and the expenses of maintenance for three years. The fund is also sufficient to permit the teachers in training at one Normal School in every Province to receive instruction by thoroughly qualified instructors." Altogether provision has been made for 6,000 boys and the Normal School teachers for three years. To obtain the best possible results it has been found necessary to engage a competent staff of teachers from abroad, principally from Great Britain, though several assistants have been engaged in Canada. Special courses are provided for Canadian teachers, who show great interest in the work, and many of them will soon become proficient as instructors. Prof. Robertson pays a high compliment to the staff of instructors. In concluding, he says: "The so-called dull boys, who are not quick at book studies, have in many cases been found to show great aptness in the manual training part of education. It prevents them from being discouraged with school life, and from feeling any sense of inferiority to the quick children. It gives them habits of carefulness and makes them self-reliant, hopeful and courageous. All of these are manifestly most desirable educational results. It is also a soothing and strengthening corrective to the quick and excitable children who become over-anxious about examinations on book subjects."

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Aug. 14, 1901.—d & w.



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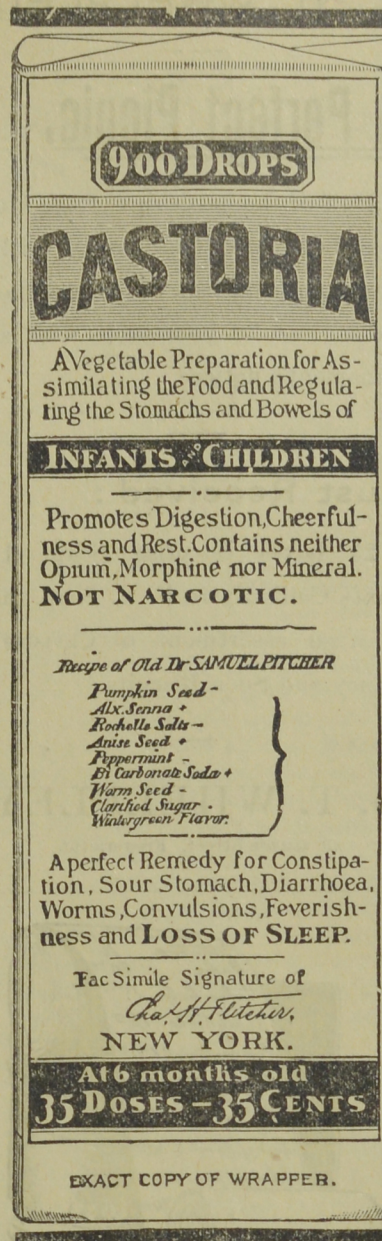
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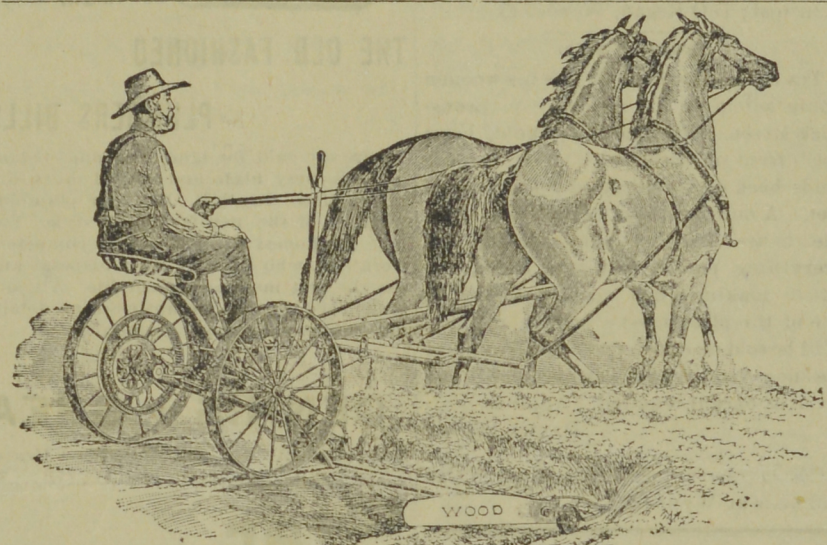
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Feb 27, 1901—d PROPRIETOR

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