

Letter Writing

F. H. SPINNEY

Principal, Alexandra Public School, Montreal

THE response to my invitation contained in the September issue of **THE SCHOOL** was most gratifying. We received scores of letters from teachers and pupils, and all were enthusiastic about the benefits and the interest of this practical exercise. The letters that we could not find time to answer were sent to schools in England, Australia, and United States.

The pupils' letters contained a great variety of topics. They described the schools, homes, books, gardens, pets, games, crops, weather, summer holidays, adventures, and many other matters of interest to children.

It is well for the teacher to encourage the pupils to write to other children just as they would talk to them. The less formality the better. Any "Composition" topic may be woven into a letter, and in that way becomes more interesting to the writer. The more the teachers experiment with this method of letter writing, the more they will be impressed with the possibilities that it contains—especially when it is conducted in a spirit of helpfulness and enthusiasm.

The publication of two or three of the letters of recent arrival will offer helpful suggestions to teachers who have not already taken part in this work. Many teachers read the published letters to the pupils, and that plan is found to be a decided stimulus to the interest.

Seaforth, Ont., September 22nd, 1914.

My dear friend:—

Our teacher read to us the letters from Alexandra School, and we are enjoying the privilege of answering them. We were all glad to receive the letters, and I think it lots of fun to write to unknown friends.

I live on a farm, a mile and a quarter away from Seaforth. I walk to school every fine day. My father has seven horses, nine cows, two calves, and lots of pigs and chickens.

I am in the Senior IV Class, and I expect to try the Entrance next year. I like Arithmetic, Grammar, Writing, and Reading. What subjects do you like best?

This summer I had a very pleasant time. I spent a month at Goderich, and a week at Stratford. At Goderich I went in bathing every other day.

When I receive an answer to this letter, I will send you some scenes of Seaforth.

Yours truly, RUTH POWELL.