

mothers, teachers, inspectors, school boards and educational bodies generally had been willing to examine the matter in order to see "if these things are so," and then have thrown their influence into the scale, there would be today kindergartens in connection with some, at least, of the large graded schools of these provinces, and our teachers in mixed schools would have been encouraged to make themselves acquainted with the methods of the kindergarten, so that they might keep the little ones happily and profitably employed, instead of forcing them, at once, to submit to rigid scholastic methods, unsuited to their tender years.

It will be said governments should take it up. Yes, they should, but governments get to run in a groove, and grow stiff with officialism. They usually steer clear of taking the initiative. No one who has watched political careers will deny this general tendency. But in all fairness it must be conceded that governments are compelled to a certain amount of conservatism, and may reasonably expect a mandate from the people for any striking departure from use and wont.

Meanwhile let kindergartners advance their banner, inform public opinion, invite teachers and outsiders to come and see their principles in operation, point out their effects on character, answer objections dispassionately, and show teachers of all grades what a help it will be to them when kindergartens are the order of the day. Be zealous, watch for opportunities to speak a word, well-chosen, urge upon the tax-payers the great value of the beginnings of manual training in the kindergarten, where it has so conspicuous a place, if they are to receive an equivalent for the large sums they are spending (and wisely spending) on science, manual training, agricultural and art schools. If you arranged your arguments in a rational manner, you will find this view very effective in gaining advocates for kindergarten extension.

In conclusion let me urge every kindergarten to send an exhibit, this autumn, to the Exhibitions at Halifax and St. John, no matter how small, but let it all be honest work, really done by the little hands themselves. There will be a full exhibit of Milton Bradley's Kindergarten Material, (unsurpassed in quality) from his agents, Steinberger & Co. in Toronto. It is to be hoped that all will visit this part of the Exhibition, and do their best to explain and illustrate and show what a help in the training of the child these things may become, both in the home and school.

As was done last year, Miss Hamilton will take over and conduct a class from Dartmouth, at the Halifax Exhibition. This was much appreciated then, and aroused great interest. If only some generous person would pay the expenses of a class from the normal school it would add to the interest. If all the kindergartners in the province will come to the Exhibitions, prepared to explain some special point of kindergarten work, much good may be accomplished. But begin at once to explain to the children what the Exhibitions are, what will be shown. Make it a lesson in the love and pride of their own dear native land, stir their hearts to do their part, by preparing some specimens to send, of their pretty hand-craft, to show how happy children enjoy themselves in work. If we all act together wisely, this opportunity should greatly help kindergarten extension in the maritime provinces.

Dalhousie Convocation.

The annual convocation of Dalhousie University was held in the hall of the School for the Blind. The departure met with approval in many quarters. The undergraduates were conspicuous not by their noise, but by their absence.

The closing exercises of the year have been gradually growing in interest. Four years ago Class Day exercises were introduced by the students. This year the Alumni took a more active part, giving a dinner to the graduates, and holding a reception in the evening of Convocation Day. The reception given by the graduating class was one of the most enjoyable of the week. The conference held at Pine Hill by the Presbyterian College for their Alumni, at which brilliant courses of lectures were given by Professor Short of Queens, Principal Falconer, Professors Magill and Morton and others attracted many visitors to the city.

The Convocation of the University was enlivened by the eloquent address of Governor Fraser, one of the University's best known sons. In introducing him the President referred to the fact that Governor Fraser and Governor MacKinnon of Prince Edward Island, both Dalhousie graduates, were holding the highest offices in their native province, at the same time that Mr. Justice Sedgwick, another Dalhousie graduate, was at the head of the government of Canada in the absence of Lord Grey.

President Trotter of Acadia University received the honorary degree of doctor of laws, and acknowledged the honor in graceful terms. In proposing him, Dr. MacMechan on behalf of the senate referred to his great services to Acadia University