

buildings of Winnipeg. Much attention is given to games and physical exercises, which give the pupils an alert, easy carriage which distinguishes them in the school or on the street. Lacrosse is played in summer and football during the winter; and the ambition of every Winnipeg youth, when he reaches a certain age, is to enrol himself in one of the many school athletic clubs which exist in the city. Valuable prizes are awarded to the victors of these inter-school contests. Years before the boy reaches the age which secures the much coveted admission to the school athletic club, he may be seen industriously practising football or lacrosse on side streets or vacant lots.

The mental alertness which characterizes all the school exercises must be due in some measure to this fine system of physical exercises. The pupils are easily governed, or do not appear to be governed at all. By means of the schools the best foreign elements are soon absorbed into the life and progress of the city. I heard a young Iclander in the first standard read with remarkable clearness and expression an English passage, and was told that up to a year or two before Icelandic was the only language he had heard. During the first year the pupil's efforts are confined largely to reading and writing, and securing in these rapidity, clearness and ease. The results were surprising, so were the results in music, nature-study and mental arithmetic.

The superintendent of the schools for the city is Mr. D. McIntyre, of Dalhousie, N. B., formerly superintendent of schools in the North End, St. John. He has seen the city grow from a few thousand inhabitants in a score of years to its present position. There are many handsome school buildings of gray brick, furnished with all modern improvements. To assist Mr. McIntyre there are two supervisors of primary schools, a supervisor of music, and a supervisor of physical drill. Last year there was a supervisor of nature study, and the results showed what could be accomplished in this line with skill and intelligent direction. Teachers, if approved by the Winnipeg board, begin with a salary of \$500. The highest salary paid to a principal of a common school is \$1,800. The salary of the principal of the collegiate school is \$2,400. This year a system of superannuation has been adopted, some account of which will be given in a future number.

Winnipeg has an excellent normal school, under the principalship of Mr. W. A. McIntyre, and a

fine collegiate school of nearly 500 pupils, who are prepared for the business of life and for entrance into Manitoba University.

Empire Day.

The observance of Empire Day, the school day next before the 24th of May, originated in a recommendation of the Dominion Educational Association, at its meeting in Halifax in 1898.

The Council of Public Instruction of Nova Scotia was first to adopt the suggestion, setting apart the day named for special exercises in the schoolroom, not for the purpose of developing a spirit of boastfulness in the greatness of the British Empire, but for the study of the causes of that greatness, of the history of the rise, growth and alliance of its different peoples, and of the development of that spirit of unity which binds together all the nations within the Empire as loyal, free and willing partners in the great confederation of kingdoms and provinces over which King Edward reigns.

Outside of the schoolroom, and beyond the limits of the Dominion, the idea is spreading. The 24th of May, which we in Canada know as Victoria Day, is beginning to carry the sentiment, if not the name, of Empire Day to other Britons beyond the sea. The mother country is beginning to realize more than ever before that in the loyal co-operation of her colonies, and in her loyal co-operation with the colonies, lies her true strength.

The motives of the United Empire Loyalists were too grand to perish in defeat. Their sacrifices have borne fruit in Canada; and, through Canadian influence and example, their love of British freedom in self-government and British devotion to the crown now spreads to other British lands, to warm the hearts and guide the movements of free and loyal Britons in a wider empire than that of which they dreamed and for which they fought in vain.

To bind us closer to our sister colonies, as well as to the motherland, and to increase our mutual helpfulness and love for them, is and should be the chief aim of Empire Day.

King Edward VII planted two trees in Central Park, New York, when he visited America as Prince of Wales in 1860. The trees were the English oak and American elm. Both trees are now alive.—*Exchange*.