

## Educational Notes

(By Spectator.)

The long school vacation in summer is a boon to pupils and teachers alike, and to those parents, especially, who live in rural districts, and find use for the many hands, even little hands, that make light work. Separated as they are for a time, from textbooks, and living a primitive life near to Nature, the physical growth and development of many a boy and girl during these weeks of freedom is little less than marvellous. Many teachers, too, responding to the call of the wild, come back to their duties in September brown as berries, with muscles taut as the strings of a well tuned harp, with strength and vitality of body and mind renewed and toned up, feeling altogether, in presence of their eager pupils, like leaders of battalions ready to brush aside every opposing difficulty, or to pass through it as a rifle bullet pierces a target of pasteboard.

But for the ambitious teacher the long vacation need not be all play. The Education Department at Victoria and the British Columbia University in Vancouver have provided long lists of courses, under distinguished leaders, for ambitious and progressive teachers looking toward greater efficiency in the work of the classroom, or toward higher certificates and degrees, a guarantee, one may hope, of greater teaching skill and power, and at the same time leading to advancement in the noblest of professions.

This year, in addition to large classes in Victoria, some four hundred teachers, inspectors and others have been under instruction in university classes in Vancouver, a marked increase on the enrolment of previous years. So helpful and popular has this work become that there is now a persistent call for extra-mural courses and classes operative throughout the greater part of the year. About forty years ago Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, adopted the system in the teeth of much adverse criticism. Now it needs neither defence nor apology; its stoutest opponents have joined the ranks of its most ardent exponents. The late President Harper, of Chicago University, was enthusiastic in its praise.

Only lack of funds prevents British Columbia University from swinging into line at once. With the rising tide of economic prosperity correspondence courses will be conducted and local classes established. The university of to-day is not a cloister where privileged spirits may seclude themselves from the rude storms that agitate the outside world, but a great mother school to serve the needs of every member of the community and add cubit after cubit to its intellectual and moral stature.

A university does not consist of buildings, costly apparatus, platoons of instructors and battalions of students. The martyr President, James Abraham Garfield, declared that a certain professor on one end of a log and himself on the other, would constitute a university. The University of British Columbia, though born amid the storm and stress of war, and housed in shacks on hospital ground, has achieved a proud place in the sisterhood of Canadian institutions of higher learning.

But, though all this is true, the fact remains that beautiful and noble buildings on a worthy site have a value impossible to measure or even to estimate. In these respects British Columbia University is begin-

ning to come into its own. The autumn session will open at Point Grey, on surely the most commanding university site in the world, and with several buildings, at least, that would do credit to any university of the Old World. These must ever prove an inspiration to professors and students alike, and an ennobling influence in the inward development of the flower of our British Columbia youth and maidenhood, leaders of the coming generation in the great march of progress, carrying aloft the torch of enlightenment snatched from the wearied hands of such as sleep in Flanders fields.

In the Annual Report of the Vancouver Schools, for the year 1922, the Assistant Municipal Inspector gives expression to the following sentiment:

"These subjects (music and art) are not frills added to the curriculum to please dilettanti faddists. Widespread taste in art is essential to our industrial progress. The appearance of an article has often almost as much to do with its saleability as its strictly utilitarian value. Our manufacturers and mechanics must therefore have something of the art instinct if they are to keep abreast of the same classes in other countries. This is apart from the quiet though power-



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