

The Educational Review.

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MESSRS. J. & A. McMILLAN have just published in pamphlet form, price fifteen cents, the full text of the judgment of his Honor Mr. Justice Barker, in the Bathurst school case, recently delivered in St. John. The summing up and decision in this *cause célèbre* is of great interest to educationists and to the public generally.

Arbor Day.

We devote a considerable portion of our space this number to Arbor Day, with the hope that the material may prove of value. Do not put off the preparation until a few days before the time appointed for Arbor Day. There should be "talks" on trees and plants, and especially a careful survey of the school grounds, so that the trees when planted will give the impression that nature has been consulted and imitated. If the ground is poor within the school limits, see that the poor soil is dug out where the tree is to be planted, and replaced by a generous supply of richer earth if the tree requires it, and this can only be found out by studying the trees and their environment beforehand. Do not expect that a tall spindly sapling taken from the midst of the woods will flourish in an open place. You will have your labor for nothing. Select your tree from an

open space or on the borders of a woodland. See that it is symmetrical, that its buds give promise of health and activity, and that it is not too large. As a rule the largest size should not exceed two or three inches in diameter at the base, and ten to fifteen feet in height. Disturb the roots as little as possible in digging. You can be reasonably certain of your tree growing if you make a circle round it and transfer the tree, roots and earth, to the school grounds. There may be some hard work connected with this kind of tree planting, but the exercise is healthful and exhilarating. The writer has dug up small saplings and shrubs in the middle of summer, and after wrapping up the root system *immediately* in canvas and damp moss has transported them for miles before transplanting, and has had the satisfaction of seeing them grow, with proper attention in planting and proper mulching and judicious moistening of the soil for a few weeks by occasional sprayings.

If your tree has an abundance of compact fibrous roots; if these have been kept embedded in their native earth and are uninjured, you have a reasonable prospect that your tree will grow and flourish. If these fibrous roots have been exposed and allowed to become dry during the journey to the school yard, throw the tree on the wood-pile and start out cheerfully in quest of another, with the resolution to take better care of it.

Prune roots as little as possible, and then only the tap roots. Prune branches with care and after mature deliberation; larger trees will bear more pruning than smaller ones. Do not prune conifers at all. What looks more unnatural and more unsymmetrical than a lot of cedars and firs shorn of their lower branches?

Prince Edward Island School Report.

The Superintendent of Education has issued his annual report "on the condition and progress of the public schools of the province." According to the report the attendance of pupils was larger and more regular than in preceding years. More schools were in operation. The number of higher class teachers employed was more than formerly. An increased attendance at the Prince of Wales College and Normal School is reported.