

become the true alma mater of us all, the benign mother, the great nourisher in life's feast.

Among the numerous agencies ministering to the improvement of the school, far beyond all others, must ever be the ideal teacher. To cramp and starve the teacher, is to cramp and starve the child. To this great trust the eyes of the surveyors were always open. Hence the emphasis placed on the longer and more careful training of the would-be teacher, in high school and normal school.

The present three-year course in the British Columbia high schools is found to be all too short, and entered upon at all too late an age, for the doing of the work these schools are expected to do. Hence the urgent need of junior high schools for the benefit of grades seven, eight and nine, and, next to these, the senior high schools training junior high school graduates in grades nine, ten and eleven, and, in some instances, in grade twelve. With the new organization, the suitable classification of pupils with respect to courses, and the added year or two, teachers will find it possible to do much more satisfactory work.

In the findings of the surveyors the normal schools come in for a large measure of attention. These should be made to function satisfactorily, if satisfactory groups of teachers are to be graduated from them year by year.

No one knows better the shortcomings of our normal schools than do the teachers comprising their present staffs. They have long known that their schools have been insufficiently staffed, that money and energy have been wasted in the attempted training of twice as many students as are required to fill all school vacancies; that instructors have been parsimoniously paid; that equipment and facilities for doing the best work have been wholly inadequate.

In truth, the principals and teachers of our two normal schools deserve the gratitude of all who are interested in the education of our children. Given the conditions urged by the surveyors, they are not likely to be found wanting. In spite of the present untoward conditions, they have worked wonders. With conditions approximately ideal in future years, their work may well surprise some of their not too sympathetic critics.

## Verse by Western Canadian Writers

### THE JOURNEY'S END.

(By Jean Kilby Rorison.)

Dear Lord! when I come near my journey's end,  
Before I reach the weary traveller's rest,  
The bourne to which I come at Thy behest,  
If I should linger on its threshold, lend  
Me grace to bear whatever Thou dost send,  
Patience to wait and cheerful courage lest  
They grieve for pity—those whom I love best.  
To spare them sorrow I on Thee depend.  
Lord, in Thy mercy send a brief eclipse,  
In the still night, ah! bid me come to thee.  
From me this life a worn-out garment slips,  
Death gently breaks the thread and sets me free:  
Then onward with a smile upon my lips,  
That thus so kindly Thou dost send for me.

### VASHTI'S FAREWELL.

(By Alice M. Winlow.)

Let the hyssop drip upon thy brow,  
The tender dew when thou from sleep doth rise  
And seekest thy fair garden. On thine eyes  
'Twill fall in blessing as my tears do now.

Let the frankincense around thy feet  
Murmur Vashti's name, each crimsoned leaf  
Betray my soul's great agony and grief,  
While round thy head my dove's soft wings shall  
beat.

Let my peacock glowing in his pride  
Greet thine eyes with beauty, on his breast  
Royal hues shall shine, while unconfessed  
Vashti stands, a shadow, by thy side.

### LIFE DREAMS.

(By Jessie Palmer.)

Within our dreams we build  
Tall hills pillared with clouds,  
And starlit nights.  
Within our dreams we drift,

Parting the rushes 'neath the willow trees,  
The dip of oars hushing the eventide.  
And these, these phantasies of life are ours,  
Are truly ours, Beloved.

But when I wake to find  
A night of stars silent with conscious pain,  
And when I stooping trace  
No dim reflection of our willow trees,  
No dip of oars, no circling evening light,  
But mirrored emptiness within the stream,  
Then do I cry, "Beloved! All that we built  
Within our dreams, in spirit, this is ours,  
The rest is only life."

(Continued on Page 16)

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