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MANUAL TRAINING.*

IT is with sincere pleasure and satisfaction that Lady Minto and I have accepted the invitation of the Public School Board to be present at the opening of the Macdonald Manual Training Schools for the City of Ottawa.

We all know that the people of Canada are to be congratulated upon the splendid opportunities which exist for the education of the children and youth of the country. The progress of the Dominion depends chiefly upon the intelligence, the honesty and the ability of its citizens, and these qualities, together with habits of perseverance and thrift, are most certainly inculcated and developed during the early years of life when the minds and the bodies of the pupils are plastic under the training influence of skilful teachers.

In a comparatively new country like this, it is of the utmost importance that institutions of learning and courses of study should provide for the thorough education of those who are to follow any profession: and it is no less in the highest interests of the state that the Elementary Schools should give the best possible education to those children whose school life ends when they leave the Public School. A British report on

this subject has lately very truly said: "The progress of the people in wealth and material prosperity must largely depend on the education given in the Primary Schools."

In accordance with this view, during recent years the educational authorities in the leading countries of Europe and also in the United States have been supplementing the course of study from text books with various forms of manual exercises and object lessons; as after careful consideration they have found that this class of training tends immensely to develop the most useful faculties of the pupils, which are neglected when the education is chiefly of a receptive character from books.

In this age of notable progress in the various fields of human activity, it is not a matter for surprise that educators should express the opinion from time to time, that educational methods require to be improved to meet changed and still changing conditions. Evidently there will not be a finality to the processes or methods of education so long as there are advances in civilization, in science and in human achievements.

Schools are the means which experience has taught us to use as the

* Summary of the address of his Excellency the Governor General at the opening of the Macdonald Manual Training Schools for Ottawa, Oct. 22, 1900.