

door nature and the natural processes of agriculture, and will likewise conduce greatly to the improvement in domestic management of future wives and mothers. Manual training also will aid those not afterwards destined for artizanship in countless expedient situations.

The gist of this process is, however, quite apart from the merely practical. Professor Robertson, who is keenly enthusiastic in the new departure, and a full and earnest believer in it, has given to the Canadian Club in Toronto what he considers the essentials of a primary education, as represented in the influences exerted upon our boys and girls during their school days. These are three in number—intelligence, ability and public spirit. When we remember that sixty per cent. of the Ontario teachers of common schools, in deference to their meagre salary, have in the past made little or no effort to develop in their transient pupils even the first of these essentials, it is well to insist that some other system be introduced in rural sections and all other places to amend this condition. There could be no more pitiful wail than that over the price of school books that we hear so commonly among Ontario parents. It is this same parsimony that offers to a school teacher no prospect of a permanent profession on the munificent salary of two hundred dollars per annum, and encourages poor service in return.

The Ontario school system has been held up to the world as a paragon of perfection. In many senses this may be true. The general policy is progressive. The serious defect remains. In rural sections, at least, it is altogether too diffuse. Consolidation could often be effected and better work done in every way, and all pupils young or old, kept judiciously employed for the whole school day. A better class of teachers could be obtained; one professionally interested in teaching for the art's sake, and with a greater living interest in the personal well-being of his temporary charges. In this way a healthy stimulus may be given towards those three essentials, without the attainment of which, our juvenile population would be little better than criminal.

Forestry Training

SPEAKING of educational needs, another phase of the question has just transpired. The importance of scientific education in the guardianship of Canadian forest reserves was ably set forth during a recent lecture before the University Political Science Club, by Mr. E. Stewart, Dominion Inspector of Timber and Forestry. Casually he threw out a strong criticism of the inadequacy of our university capacity when he stated that the experts and assistants in forestry employed by the Government were largely obtained from American University graduates. A special scientific education was necessary in order to superintend forest areas, and control the lumbering operations against a lavish destruction of a future wood supply. The men who are needed for this ought to come from Canadian schools. Certainly the Government has been over-dilatory in not providing adequate instruction in this special branch. We trust it will not be long ere the University of Toronto will have a well-equipped department of forestry, after which we expect our American brethren will be no longer needed.

Canadian Defence

UNDER the direction of the Minister of Marine, a new movement is taking shape towards the extension of the Canadian Home Defence System. A naval militia will shortly be organized. There will be probably three training depots—one at Halifax, another on the Great Lakes, and the third on the Pacific Coast. The enlistment will be for three years, with training periods corresponding to the ordinary militia. After this the trained men will be held as a reserve organization, to be available on any grave emergency. It is expected to have a force of 10,000 reservists within ten years. There will be in addition a small permanent naval force, available as a training nucleus, and the manning of three government training ships, which, with the necessary instructors, will be drawn from the admiralty.

The new force will be rendered necessary, pending future contemplated changes