

building. The pupils take as much pride and interest in the building and in everything pertaining to it as could possibly be expected. It cannot be said of this school:

"Within the master's desk is seen,
Deep scarred by raps official,
The warping floor, the battered seats,
The jack-knife's carved initial;
The charcoal frescoes on its wall,
Its door's worn sill, betraying
The feet that creeping slow to school
Went storming out to playing."

Seven vans, which cost about \$135 each, convey the pupils from outlying districts to the school. There has been no serious difficulty as regards transportation. Last winter was the most severe ever experienced in this section of the Province. At several points on the roads the snow was twenty feet deep. It stormed nearly every day during the months of January and February, yet on only one day was school closed. On every other school day the attendance was never less than fifty per cent. of enrolment, except on one day. Individual vans missed occasionally, but chiefly during one week in the spring when the snow melted rapidly and the roads were almost impassable. The children, even on the coldest and most stormy days, were comfortable; only those who walked had wet feet or frozen ears. Transportation has been successful even beyond our most sanguine expectations. This year the cost of transportation has been high, because nearly all the drivers had to buy horses and harness. It is hoped that next year the cost will be less. The routes, cost, etc., are as follows:

	Miles travelled one way.	Children carried.	Cost per day.
Route No. 1...	7	16	\$2.50
Route No. 2...	5	23	2.00
Route No. 3...	7	19	2.50
Route No. 4...	5	17	1.80
Route No. 5...	5	18	2.50
Route No. 6...	7	9	1.90
Route No. 7...	3	23	1.80

At present there are six teachers on the staff—two men and four ladies. The Principal has charge of all the nature-study and school-garden-work, and also teaches other subjects in the upper grades. The manual-training teacher has charge of mathematics and other subjects in the advanced grades. Three of the staff are university graduates. All the subjects of the ordinary course of instruction for N. B. are taught, in addition to the special subjects. All the grades have some form of manual training. The pupils of the primary grades have paper-cutting, paper-folding, modelling from clay, etc. In Grades III., IV. and V. there is cardboard construction and mechanical drawing. In Grade VI., or at about the age of 12, the wood-work begins. In addition to the regular graded course of models, every boy makes stakes and articles required for use in connection with other subjects. The older girls have household science, which includes sewing, cooking, laundry work, home nursing, sanitation, etc. In nature study, in addition to the school-garden work, during the spring and autumn months there is field work, in the study of plants, rocks, birds, insects, etc. Except on wet days, nearly all the work is done out of doors, in actual contact with the material. This outdoor work may be termed unsystematic. During the winter months the indoor laboratory is used, and short elementary courses in physics, chemistry, selection of seeds, mineralogy, etc., are given. Each pupil has a separate set of apparatus, and performs all experiments. Not only do the special subjects referred to never fail to interest the pupils, but they are of great practical, everyday value, and the mental and moral training that they give is equal to or greater than that given by the older subjects.

The advantages of a consolidated school cannot be overestimated. One cannot visit this school, watch the



The Macdonald Consolidated School, Kingston, N. B.

children at work in their different rooms or assembled together in the hall, see the bright, attractive, artistic surroundings, and note the character of the work being done without saying that there can be no comparison made that would do justice to the consolidated school, it is so far superior in every way to the

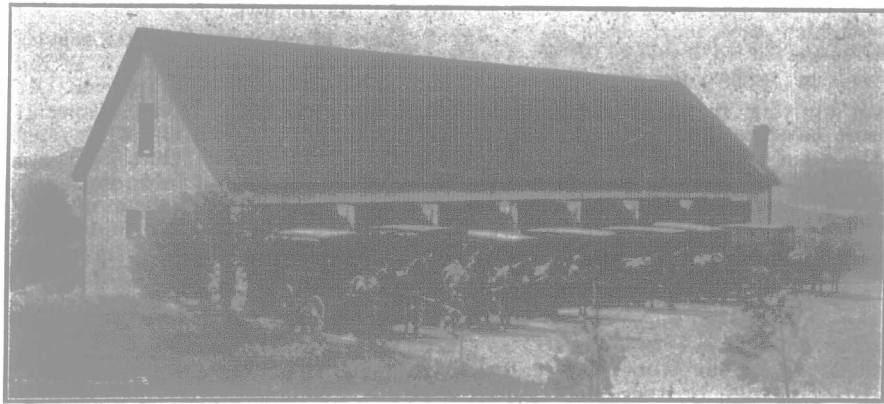
ly the dearest when all things are considered. A little fourth-rate school, with a third-class teacher, means a serious waste of money and an alarming waste of precious child-life. At good centers, where many of the children can walk, and in a section where the van routes are not long and difficult, it may be cheaper

rather go to school than stay at home—certainly a new condition of affairs.

It is expected, and the indications so far are good, that consolidated schools will, to a great extent, help to check the rural exodus.

The Kingston school has had hundreds of visitors during the past year. The Governor of the Province, the ex-Governor, Premier, members of the Provincial Legislature, the leading educationists of N. B., and many delegations of trustees and ratepayers have inspected the school, and all expressed themselves as being delighted with the school and the scheme. The prospects for consolidation in N. B. are very bright. At least two other consolidated schools will open this year, and several others are in different stages of development. I prophesy that in a few years there will be many in this Province, and their work will transform rural practices and rural life.

D. W. H.



Van Shed, Macdonald Consolidated School.

little district school. The only argument of any weight that can possibly be brought against consolidation of schools in N. B. is that in some sections it may cost more to run an up-to-date consolidated school than to run the little schools. The cheapest articles, though, are usual-

financially to consolidate, as has been the experience in the United States.

The popularity of the school among parents, pupils and ratepayers is great. It is the truth, in connection with the school, that the great majority of pupils would much

Self-culture is the acquisition of that which adds to our happiness by enlarging our environments.—Helen Wilmans.

The power to do great things generally arises from the willingness to do small things.—Emerson.

Duty is a prickly shrub, but its flower will be happiness and glory.—M. F. Tupper.



Pupils Working in Macdonald Consolidated School Garden.