

Canada, Australasia, we stock of a Northern land  
Are stiff, and reserved, and proud, and the words that we  
speak are few,  
But we look you straight in the face, and we grip your out-  
stretched hand,  
And God deal so with us, as we deal, in your need, with you!

—Lord Ernest Hamilton, in the *Pall Mall Magazine*.

### This Canada of Ours.

Let other tongues in older lands,  
Loud chant their claims to glory,  
And chant in triumph of the past,  
Content to live in story.  
Though boasting no baronial halls,  
Nor ivy-crested towers,  
What past can match thy glorious youth,  
This Canada of ours?

We love those far-off ocean isles,  
Where Britain's monarch reigns,  
We'll ne'er forget the good old blood  
That courses thro' our veins;  
Proud Scotia's fame, old Erin's name,  
And haughty Albion's powers,  
Reflect their matchless lustre on  
This Canada of ours.

May our Dominion flourish, then,  
A goodly land and free,  
Where Celt and Saxon, hand and hand,  
Holds sway from sea to sea.  
Strong arms shall guard our cherished home  
When darkest danger lowers,  
And with our life blood we'll defend  
This Canada of ours. —J. D. Edgar, M. P.

### Canada.

Awake, my country! The hour is great with change.  
Under this gloom which yet obscures the land,  
From ice-blue strait and stern Laurentian range,  
To where giant peaks our western bounds command,  
A deep voice stirs, vibrating in men's ears  
As if their own hearts throbbed that thunder forth,  
A sound wherein who hearkens wisely hears  
The voice of the desire of this strong North,  
This North whose heart of fire  
Yet knows not its desire  
Clearly, but dreams, and murmurs in the dream,  
The hour of dreams is done! Lo, on the hills the gleam!

Awake, my country! the hour of dreams is done!  
Doubt not, nor dread the greatness of thy fate.  
Tho' faint souls fear the keen confronting sun,  
And fain would bid the morn of splendors wait;  
Though dreamers, wrapped in starry visions, cry—  
"Lo, yon thy future, yon thy faith, thy name!"  
Here in Canadian hearth, and home and name:  
This name which yet shall grow  
Till all the nations know  
Us for a patriot people, heart and hand,  
Loyal to our native earth—our Canadian land.

O, strong hearts, guarding the birthright of our glory,  
Worth your best blood, this heritage, that ye guard!  
These mighty streams resplendent with our story,  
These iron coasts by rage of seas unjarred  
What fields of peace these bulwarks well secure!  
What vales of plenty those calm floods supply!  
Shall not our love this rough, sweet land make sure,  
Her bounds preserve inviolate though we die?  
O, strong hearts of the North,  
Let flame your loyalty forth  
And put the craven and base to open shame,  
Till earth shall know the child of nations by her name!  
—Charles G. D. Roberts.

### Report of Nova Scotia Schools.

The last annual report of the public schools of Nova Scotia, though not as full as usual, has nevertheless a large amount of information, valuable especially for teachers. The statistical tables reveal no striking advance in any direction, except, perhaps, in the attention given to manual training. There are 132 sections without any school, some of them because the conditions of life in their neighborhood are so hard that no suitable boarding-house for the teacher can be found near the school. A change in the school law, enabling school boards to unite two or more sections into one, may somewhat improve this condition of things, and add greatly to the efficiency of such schools.

School libraries have been enlarged by the addition during the year of nearly 2,000 volumes. On an average there are now six library books for every school in the province, or one book for every seven pupils. School sections have now the power to assess for school libraries, and a list of the most suitable books will soon be published. Teachers in every section should use their influence to have a small sum voted for books at the next annual meeting.

The number of pupils enrolled has fallen behind. The census for this year will soon reveal whether this is owing to a decreased population or to an increased industrial activity. It is quite evident, that if there has been an increase of population, it must have been very small.

It is generally conceded that the teacher makes the school; that if equipment stands for ten or five per cent of the success of the school, then the teacher stands for ninety or ninety-five per cent. If this is true, it is rather discouraging to find that although the amount voted for building and repairs increased \$58,000, yet the amount for teachers' salaries has decreased by \$4,000, although there were sixty-four more teachers.

There are eighteen county academies, with an attendance varying from 333 in Halifax to 23 in Inverness, giving a total of 1,665. In the other high schools of the province there are 5,584 pupils. The average age of academic pupils of the first year varies from 13.66 years in Truro to 16 years in Digby. This would seem to show that the common schools of Truro are doing better work than any others in the province. Three thousand four hundred and fifty-nine candidates went to the high school provincial examination. Of these over one-half obtained the grade applied for.

The Superintendent of Education discountenances any thoughtless or unnecessary changes in text-books, pointing out that a change in readers alone would involve an expenditure of \$25,000 to the pupils, besides