

Queen's University Journal

Published week'y during the Academic Year by the Alma Mater Society of Queen's University.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, - - W. A. Kennedy, B.A.

ASSOCIATE EDITORS, - - - { ARTS, - - - A. G. Dorland.
SCIENCE, - - - H. Bradley.

MANAGING EDITOR, - - - R. S. STEVENS, B.A.

DEPARTMENTS

LADIES, - - - { Miss J. Elliott.
Miss W. Girdler.
ARTS, - - - - C. S. McCaughey.
SCIENCE, - - - - J. B. Stirling, B.A.
MEDICINE, - - - - G. B. Kendrick, B.A.
EDUCATION, - - - - S. H. Henry, M.A.

DIVINITY, - - - J. W. Johnson, M.A.
ATHLETICS, - - - G. A. Platt, M.A.
ALUMNI, - - - - W. F. Dyde.
EXCHANGES, - - - W. R. Leadbeater.
MUSIC AND DRAMA, W. M. Goodwin, B.A.

BUSINESS MANAGER, - - - M. R. Bow, B.A.

ASSISTANT, - - - H. W. McKiel, B.A.

Subscriptions, \$1.00 per year; single copies, 10c.

Communications should be addressed to the Editor, or to the Business Manager, Queen's University, Kingston.

Editorials.

"CANADA'S Fertile Northland" was the topic of a very interesting address given by Mr. R. E. Young, Commissioner of Railway Lands for Canada, of Ottawa, at the meeting of the Alma Mater Society on Saturday evening. It was by no means an ordinary lecture, and those who were present were highly pleased with it. Mr. Young carried his audience with him from the beginning. He had a contagious enthusiasm which he justified by a series of facts which he presented in a very graphic way. He had evidently gone to a great deal of trouble in getting his material and he had it ready for the Society in such palatable portions that there was a strong desire for more. Mr. Young is an optimist as far as the Canadian West is concerned, or if that terms savors a little of uncertainty, it might be better to say that he "believes" in a great future for that part of the country lying north of the present surveyed portions of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. No extravagant facts or figures seemed to find a place in his statement of conditions. His estimation appeared to be conservative and his allowances liberal, and yet everybody was made to feel that there were good reasons for his predictions that lands formerly despised as barren and frozen would soon be prosperous agricultural and manufacturing districts. It is his conviction that within a few years the bulk of the population of Canada would be west of Winnipeg.

One of the errors that Mr. Young dispelled was that in the West there is a great danger from frost. Each succeeding year is making it plain that the West is the place for growing wheat. With the breaking up of large contiguous tracts of land, the heat absorbed during the day is sufficient to prevent the slight frosts that used to be so fatal to the crops on isolated farms. In addition to this, the wheat now raised in the West is not from imported seed as it once was, but is a naturalized *Western* wheat with characteristics of its own. One of these qualities is the capability to grow up and ripen within the season which is also gradually extended as the whole comes under cultivation. The winter climate was a thing to be thankful for, and for which no apology need be made. "Things don't grow in the winter," he regarded as a sufficient answer to all the whining about cold weather. In addition to this the hard winter was the very thing which