

Educational Notes

By SPECTATOR.

Again the Vancouver Board of School Trustees is submitting a building programme for endorsement by the ratepayers. Ten years ago the last permanent school building in the city was completed, and since then the attendance has increased by almost sixty per cent. The increase during the last two months has been sufficient to fill a fifteen-room school, and the additional increase in February, 1925, will probably be sufficient to crowd to the doors a twenty-room building.

Where, then, are the new-comers—the glory of the home, the hope of the city and the hope of the nation—to be housed? It is for the ratepayers to rise to the occasion in the December civic election, and honestly express their faith in the proud city in which Providence has bestowed upon them the privilege of citizenship.

In world affairs there is real progress in the direction of stability. The British electors have given to the governing party a lease of power for the next four or five years. The American presidential election is already decided, and here also we have the assurance of four years of comparative peace in which men may buy and sell and get gain. Germany, for the first time since the close of the war, has balanced her budget. France has held out the olive branch by withdrawal of her troops from the Ruhr. The Angel of Peace is surely once more abroad in this old world, cleansing the festering wounds of the weary nations, and pouring in healing balm. It is for men everywhere to rise from their dead selves and take on new hope. It is for the men and women of Vancouver to grant at last some scant measure of justice to our children, those on whom will be laid not the least share of the task of building up again the ruined structure in defence of which millions of martyrs, the flower of this age's civilization, freely laid down their lives.

An early American statesman said to his fellow-countrymen: "Let us learn to think continentally." This is doctrine that Canadians of the present day can disregard only at their own imminent peril. Let there be no East, no West, no North, no South; but from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the St. Lawrence to the Pole, let it be just Canada.

Can we in Vancouver rise even as high as the attainment of civic unity of spirit? but must ward wage war with ward, school district with school district? It is obvious that the needs of pupils in every part of the city cannot be provided for simultaneously: the most clamant needs should therefore be attended to first. Let parents in every part of Vancouver vote heartily in favor of extra school accommodation in the most congested districts—Hastings, General Gordon, Charles Dickens—and, if the by-laws with this end in view are carried by a handsome vote, without doubt the wants of other districts will be attended to in due course.

With Aristotle the greatest of virtues was magnanimity, great-mindedness. Great-mindedness builds up the ideal city. Envy, jealousy, selfishness, small-mindedness, point unmistakably to one goal—individual and civic suicide.

The venerable and respected Captain Robert Dollar, captain of ships, and captain of industry, of late made a stirring appeal to the members of the Board of Trade, urging them, with all the energy and burning enthu-

siasm which have made the man, to build up Vancouver by the establishment and development of manufacture. He is here certainly on solid ground. In the building up of a great city, manufacture, commerce and culture may well go hand in hand.

There is now a movement on foot in Vancouver to establish a school of Arts and Crafts, to offer to the youth of the city a training in artistic conception, delicacy of manipulation, attainment of beauty in construction and form. The men and women behind such a movement are civic benefactors, worthy of the most serious encouragement and the most generous assistance from every citizen whom nature and education have endowed with vision.

Our schools are not idle. Progress in the teaching of literature, music and drawing, so often scoffed at as frills by the so-called severely practical man, is developing a taste in our boys and girls without which the highest product of the workshop is an achievement which even money cannot buy.

It is often charged that the organization and working of our state schools tends, in the case of budding genius, to "repress the noble rage, and freeze the genial current of the soul." There is no necessity for any such tendency, but much depends on the teacher. It is the high privilege of the discerning teacher to foster the development of talent, to discover genius, and to see that it gets the largest possible measure of free play. The ordinary requirements of the course have no need to be ignored. These should be met daily in the shortest possible time, to leave the pupil free to pursue those lines of development in which he is most interested.

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