

should have. The workingman's boy should be taught those things that will aid him in earning his living by the sweat of his brow, and, while doing so, earning incidentally handsome profits for his employer. But on this question Labor has its own ideas. Labor is not blind to the fact that life is more than the making of a living; hence the emphasis it places on the idealistic, rather than on the so-called practical, in education. It holds, and holds with truth, that the most important subjects are the directly inspirational ones, such, especially, as history, language and literature. Labor is determined that the workingman shall have his hours of leisure, and that he shall have been so trained that he may use his leisure for self-development and the enjoyment that cannot pall.

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INTER-EMPIRE EXCHANGE OF SCHOOL-INSPECTORS

More than a quarter of a century ago the Minister of Education in Ontario repeatedly reminded an admiring public that their own province possessed the finest educational system in the world. Yet, while the words fell from his lips, the highest product of the Ontario system in a never-ending stream was faring forth to foreign lands to seek the advanced training denied them at home, while few, if any, foreigners returned the compliment by seeking postgraduate instruction in Canadian institutions.

The educational authorities of New Zealand are wiser in their day and generation. They maintain, with truth on their side, that their own educational system is an excellent one, yet they are determined that there shall be no halting in the process of development and progress. Hence the emphasis they place upon the principle of exchange. The exchange effected by Inspector N. R. McKenzie, of Auckland province, with a Vancouver inspector, and, later, with a Toronto inspector, was probably the first of its kind in the English-speaking world. Inspector McKenzie, since his return to his own country, has been employed in dispensing throughout the length and breadth of the land the good things he has brought from this side. And now, a brother inspector, Dr. McIlraith, has exchanged with an English inspector, and hopes to spend eighteen months reaping an educational harvest in the ripe fields of the Mother Country.

Nor is this all. About twenty-five New Zealand teachers are at present enjoying exchange with teachers overseas. Each is allowed a money grant of half the fare between terminals up to fifty pounds, together with full salary for a period not exceeding two months, and half salary for an additional period not exceeding one month, during the time the recipient

may be unemployed outside of New Zealand. In short, the exchange teacher is encouraged to go abroad not so much for his own particular advantage as for the profit of the Dominion at large.

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EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN CITY AND COUNTRY

From time immemorial students of sociology have deplored the migration from country to city. Yet this movement of population has been inevitable, and no effective preventive is likely to be discovered. As labor-saving machinery is perfected, fewer hands will be required to produce the food supplies demanded by the residents of cities and towns. It has been conceded, also, that a city population, if left to itself, would die out in a few generations, were it not constantly recruited by the red blood of the farm laborer and yeoman.

At the same time country life should be rendered as attractive as possible, and its advantages made the undoubted equivalent of those of the city. The country child should have educational opportunities equal to those enjoyed by his city cousin. But this is impossible in the little school with its handful of pupils in charge of a mere tyro in teaching. And even if a rural teacher here and there is qualified to give secondary school instruction, he or she has not the time to devote to this department of the work, and at the same time do justice to the children in the public school grades.

The remedy is the consolidated graded school, erected in some favorable central location, to which the pupils are conveyed from considerable distances in every direction. In such a school educational work in both primary and secondary grades may be carried on by an efficient principal and staff. Manual training and domestic science, with other extra subjects, can also receive careful attention. Wholesome school spirit can be developed, and invaluable training and discipline received on its playing fields. The school, too, may easily become the social centre for adult life, and even denominational differences may be smoothed down and forgotten in the Sunday and week-day religious services held in the central hall.

In the United States the establishment of the consolidated school goes on apace. Canada, too, has its own small quota. The province of British Columbia has made a beginning in this very desirable movement. But much more remains to be done, and every serious and thoughtful promoter of education in both country and city should do his or her utmost to extend the system and make it prevail.

Literary

The first ladies' dinner since the war was held recently by the British Authors' Club at the Hotel Cecil in London and one of the subjects under discussion was the place of women in the writing craft. Sir A. Conan Doyle in speaking to the toast of "Ladies and Literature" said that he always thought that he could tell whether a man or a woman wrote the novel, "Mary Lee," until he wrote the lady a letter of congratulations upon it and got a reply back from a captain of infantry.

Miss Sheila Kaye-Smith, the Sussex authoress, who was one of the three special guests of the occasion, in replying spoke of the prominent place held by the women writers at the present time. Speaking generally, she found that the women were making as good a show as the men. She attributed this to the fact that the younger men, who had taken their part in the war had suffered physically and mentally with the result that promising men of 1914 had not been heard from.

Sheila Kaye-Smith is one of the foremost women novelists in Britain today. Her recent book, "The Fall of the House of Alard," is not only a most interesting story, moving in plot and vivid in characterization, but is a study that will be valuable to the historian of the future for its accurate and sympathetic presentment of what is taking place today in England in the breaking up of the big estates and the passing of certain outworn standards of the aristocracy.

Conan Doyle might very well remark on the difficulty in

these days of distinguishing between the writing of men and women. He might have said truthfully enough that the position today is somewhat reversed from what it used to be, in that, while the trend of present day fiction is all towards a frankness and freedom from restraint unknown a decade ago, it is the women who have ventured by far the farthest in this direction while the men follow timidly and at a distance.

Lovers of the "kailyard school" as represented by Barrie, Crockett and Ian MacLaren will be interested in the appearance of a new writer following in their footsteps. This is John Innes with his book boasting the suggestive title, "Till a' The Seas Gang Dry." The New York Times finds it worthy of a full column review and commends it for its sincerity and the charm of its atmosphere. In the hero, there is apparently another "sticket minister" who kills the villain by his own hand with a coulter hook.

Canadian literature is to be represented at the British Empire Exhibition this summer by an exhibit of five hundred volumes. The choice is being made by Dr. George Locke, the Toronto librarian assisted by Robert Stead, the President of The Canadian Authors' Association. It is well that the product of Canadian brains should have a place amongst exhibits representative of our useful crafts and our natural resources. Magazine literature will also be represented and we are gratified to learn that a request has come from the East for copies of the British Columbia Monthly for this purpose.