

MANUAL TRAINING IN OTTAWA.

By Albert H. Leake, Director of the Macdonald Manual Training Schools in Ontario.

MANUAL Training Schools were formally opened in Ottawa, Oct. 27th, 1900, by their Excellencies the Governor-General and the Countess of Minto.

Manual Training centres are now fitted up in the city as follows:—

Three public schools—Archibald Street, Cambridge Street and George Street—have each a room for twenty boys. The Model School is provided with the same accommodation, and an outside centre is fitted for sixty boys in the Ottawa Amateur Athletic Association rooms, as being easy of access for those parts of the city not otherwise provided for.

The boys are drafted from the public schools in classes and attend either one forenoon or one afternoon per week. The class attending the centre on Monday forenoon will attend the following week on the same day and at the same time, and so on through the ten half-day sessions of the week for every class attending. The boys in some cases proceed to the Manual Training room directly from their homes, or, what seems the better plan, march from the school under the charge of a teacher or the captain who is elected by the boys themselves. The captain leads the boys into the room, arranges them in bench order and marches them to their assigned bench in the room, which bench is kept throughout a boy's attendance at the class. This method of procedure induces a spirit which is beneficial to the boys and helpful to the work.

The morning session lasts from 9.30 to 11.30, and the afternoon session from 1.30 to 3.30. Accommodation is provided in the city for 1,400 boys to receive one lesson per week. Facilities are provided for every boy from Junior III. upwards to receive this

training, and it is hoped that before many months have elapsed a preliminary course will be arranged for the younger boys. Already cases have arisen where a class when given the option of taking a half holiday or attending the Manual Training class, has almost unanimously chosen the Manual Training. The attendance has been gratifying, and the Principals of the schools have expressed the opinion that the attendance at the ordinary school work has been materially improved owing to the attractions offered by this training.

A record of the attendance and work of each boy is kept, so that any time the progress of any individual may be seen. Each boy is provided with an adjustable bench and a complete set of bench tools, placed in a rack at its back, while round the room are arranged the tools not so frequently required. In addition a separate pigeon hole or locker is given to each pupil in which to keep, from week to week, his apron, his drawings and his work, and for the neatness and tidiness, of which he alone is responsible. At the close of every lesson each boy sweeps down his bench and replaces in its proper position every tool he has used. The rooms are also provided with museum cupboards, in which are exhibited the boys' best efforts, the standard models, and any interesting objects relating to the trees and timber of the Province, that may be brought by the boys.

At present the bench work is almost entirely in wood, and consists of a series of models most carefully graduated, in order of difficulty, as to kind of wood, principles of construction and complexity of tool operations. Every model is made from a fully dimensioned drawing previously prepared by the