

## A LETTER FROM GRADE VIII.

The Director of Rural Science in Nova Scotia writes us:

The following letter, written in June by a grade VIII school girl, has interesting subject matter, and is written in an easy natural manner which contrasts agreeably with the stilted compositions so often written on "assigned topics."

MR. L. A. DEWOLFE,  
Truro, N. S.,

DEAR SIR:

I am just going to write to tell you about my garden. My sister and I made ours together. It is about six feet square. My sister has sweet peas, pansies and pinks. First I dug a piece about two feet by four feet. The soil was clayey so I carried richer soil and mixed it. Then I took the sods which I dug up and put them around my garden. I did this for two purposes, first to keep the rain from washing the soil down, and second to make it look nice.

After I got the soil dried a little I made little rows about an inch deep. The flowers I planted were "Wild Garden Flowers." The seeds were different sizes; and I did not know which grew large, so I planted them quite thick. Then I covered them over. I planted them the last Friday in May. I watered them every evening after the sun went down. For a few days, it rained; and as I did not have to water them I did not go out at all. The second Tuesday in June I went out and found they were all up.

Of course, after they came up I kept good care of them. They are growing fine.

I have asters planted too. But, as I did it the same as the others, I will not tell you about it. Mrs. Grant gave me nine "Balsam" plants, but they all died but two.

I have some lettuce planted but I did not get the soil ready. Papa ploughed a field for potatoes and turnips, and he gave me a small strip, for lettuce. I have joined the "Bird Society." We have not received our plates yet.

There are lots of different kinds of birds around our front garden. A robin built her nest over our front door last summer, and built over the window this summer. But a cat or the wind blew it down one night. But now she has built over the parlor window. She is sitting now.

The Humming birds come to our place every year. They have long bills and a very bright red throat. When they fly their wings go so fast you cannot see them. They built a very small nest in our two big willow trees. The wild canary has their nests around our place too. There is one in a maple tree and one in the rose bushes. They are very small too. A sparrow has its nest in the peak of our barn.

We have eighteen little chickens. Some are white, yellow and black.

We have examined a lot of flowers, Buttercup, Cinquefoil, Mayflower, Bluet, Violet, Dandelion, Blue-eyed Grass, Solomon's Seal, Gold Thread, Ground Ivy, Strawberry blossom, Cherry blossom, Apple blossom, Twisted stalk, Blood Root and Starflower are the ones I have pressed.

I am writing and drawing for the Exhibition. The map I drew was the Western Hemisphere. I am going to draw a map of Hants, Colchester and Halifax. The prize is a pair of skates.

Well I guess I have told you about all so will close.

## EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

The twenty-sixth meeting of the Provincial Teachers' Institute opened in the assembly hall of the St. John High School on Wednesday, June 28th, and was a notable success. The registration was over six hundred, the attendance was prompt and punctual, and the close attention given to the excellent papers and addresses showed genuine interest. As usual at the Provincial Institutes, the subjects discussed were not so much those that concern the daily programme of the schoolroom, as those that deal with the larger movements in education, the outside forces affecting school life and the connection between school, home and state.

In his opening address, the president, Dr. W. S. Carter, Chief Superintendent of Education for New Brunswick, gave a short but comprehensive review of what has been accomplished and what has been proposed but not yet carried out in New Brunswick in the way of educational progress during the last six years.

Among other topics Dr. Carter spoke of the desirability of uniform text books and uniform teachers' training and licenses throughout the Dominion, the increase and need of further increase in teachers' salaries, the success of the pension system, the improvement of school buildings and equipment in some of the towns, and the importance of physical training. He spoke strongly in favor of military training on the Australian or Swiss plans. In conclusion, Dr. Carter read and signified his hearty agreement with the opinions set forth by a number of eminent and representative men in Great Britain on the needs of education in the light of the great war. They point out the danger of ignoring the vital elements in education and looking to purely material ends. "Technical education," they say, "is essential to our industrial prosperity and national safety; but education should be nothing less than a prepara-