

table school gardens, were kept by a class or grade in the school. The individual plot is probably the preferable one, as thereby each pupil has a proprietary interest in his bed, and is likely to take more interest in it than if the ownership was only a common one.

#### WOODSTOCK ENTERPRISE.

In Woodstock we made a beginning three years ago of improving our school grounds by making a large bed of plants and flowers in front of the Central school. Last year the annuals were very satisfactory, and attracted a great deal of attention and favorable comment. In the autumn 1,200 tulip bulbs were planted in the same bed, and their appearance in the spring with their rich and varied colors (four varieties) was extremely effective. It did much to create public opinion in favor of this movement. And later in the season, in addition to the bed being replanted with tropical plants and showy annuals, the School Board at the suggestion of the Horticultural Society, planted a considerable number of shrubs and evergreens along the fence at the rear of the fine grounds. These have thrived well during the summer, and, with a little time will add greatly to the attractiveness of the grounds.

Similar action followed on the grounds of the Collegiate Institute, and also on those of the County Buildings, both of which have been thereby improved in appearance.

In addition to this the Horticultural Society has tried to do something in another direction to encourage the school children and citizens in the direction of floriculture and horticulture. Last year they offered money prizes for the best kept flower and vegetable gardens, and also for the best kept lawns and boulevards—competition being open to citizens having  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre or less of ground. There was considerable competition and it excited a general interest throughout the city. The Society also offered prizes for the best kept home plots to be planted and

attended by pupils of the city schools. This competition was also fairly satisfactory.

It is interesting and satisfactory to note that a flower garden competition has also been held in Ottawa during the past two years at the suggestion and through the generosity of Her Excellency the Countess of Minto, who contributed therefor valuable gold and silver medals. The latter have been eagerly competed for and won, among others, by several millionaire residents of the capital. Thus has Her Excellency of Government House been doing something practical towards making our Canadian Capital City the Washington of the North.

But the Horticultural Society this year adopted a somewhat different plan. They distributed to three pupils in each department of the Central and public schools a number of plants and flowers, such as asters, zinnias, phlox, petunias and geraniums. These were distributed free, the only condition being that flowers from them should be exhibited—and a large number of bouquets were exhibited by the children as stipulated at the fall exhibition of the Society. In this way from eighty to one hundred pupils received plants and flowers, and had little gardens of their own at their several homes during the summer. I have reports from them all, and they are alike interesting, amusing and appreciative. Here are some of them:

"Right in every way."

"The geraniums are like bushes."

"I gathered beautiful flowers from them."

"Thank the Society for giving them to me."

"I picked flowers every day and put them in a vase in the dining room."

"One day I cut three dozen asters off my plants and they were very large. The geraniums also were large and bloomed all the time. I gave a great many bunches to my friends."

"Slips have been taken for another year from the geraniums."