

"As the time for the fair drew near, the interest of the children was obviously growing more intense. Every effort was being made, every nerve being strained to complete and perfect the work to be exhibited. On the morning of the great day, eager children thronged around and within the school building to place their exhibits in their respective classes. Yet amid all this eagerness, the spirit of competition was not rampant, but rather a mutual interest and delight in each other's accomplishments. This to us was a very pleasing aspect of the children's attitude and behaviour. The large proportion of parents of foreign birth was very noticeable; thus one object of the school fair was being accomplished, in some measure at any rate. What was regarded by the teachers rather in the light of an experiment is now an accomplished fact, and all have been confirmed in their belief in this new movement."

Another interesting report runs thus:

"The parents were much in favour of the scheme and lauded the efforts made in the interests of their children. One mother who has four children attending school said she had looked forward to our exhibition but had no idea that there would be so much worth seeing. Several others expressed surprise at seeing what a collection of exhibits school children could display. Hopes were freely expressed that we continue our efforts along this line."

Many other reports might be referred to and in every instance strong emphasis was laid upon the wide-spread interest aroused by the non-English settlers. Fathers and mothers who knew practically no English gazed in admiration at the work of their children, and it was clearly a matter of intense satisfaction to them to find that their children won many prizes. One father born in an obscure Austrian village took particular pride in showing his neighbours a miniature set of bob-sleighs made by one of his Canadian-born sons. "Good teachers. Good fair. Good schools. Good country. Everything good", was his laconic summary of his views of his adopted country. And this is the view of the vast majority of our Slavic settlers. Shall we allow narrow-minded intriguers to interfere with these natural impressions of this land of freedom and opportunity? Let the strong, ennobling guidance of upright, honourable Canadian statesmanship direct these people. Let every Canadian man, woman, and child take a deeper interest in the Canadianisation of these humble sons of the soil!

The prize exhibits from each of these fourteen centres were sent to the town of Y—— where a very large Union school fair was held. There were over two thousand entries and more than one hundred teachers attended. The accompanying illustration gives some idea of the appearance of the interior of the town hall on fair day.

We shall never properly solve the rural problem in our foreign settlements until the home and school become more closely united and work together for mutual improvement. In the busy life of the western prairie farmer too little time has been devoted to social and intellectual improvement, but every nerve has been strained to increase the cultivated acreage and materialism has held sway to an alarming extent.