

The Western School Journal

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Editorial

CHRISTMAS

Christmas comes but once a year. Nowhere can it be honored more fittingly than in the common school. In the school are all races, classes, creeds. They work together, play together, and forget their differences in the enjoyment of a brotherhood that is sincere and unaffected. Among men generally the joyous season lasts a day or at most a week. In the properly-ordered school it may last throughout the year.

The true observance of Christmas in the school is not the holding of a con-

cert or an entertainment, though that is good in its way, and should not be omitted. Where there is peace, love and a sense of brotherhood, there it is Christmas. It is only the teacher with a warm heart, a kindly disposition, a generous nature, who can enter into the spirit of the season. It is only when pupils are happy, and in right relationship with each other and their instructors that they can enjoy the pleasures of Christmastide.

HOME WORK

The very first thing is to get the facts of the case. It is not so easy to collect them, since practice varies so much in schools and localities. At a convention of school trustees held recently there was testimony given by nearly all present to the effect that children from Grade VII. to Grade XI. are loaded beyond endurance. In another district are found parents who complain that their children are never asked to do any work, and that the only thing at which they can succeed is play. The School Journal is anxious to get information of a reliable nature, and therefore solicits the co-operation of parents, teachers and students. The first effort will be to enquire into conditions in the High Schools of the province, for if there is an evil it is undoubtedly here that it is aggravated, because of the fact that pupils are all working towards examination, and because each

student is assigned work by several teachers. All parties concerned will therefore render a service by writing an answer to the following questions.

1. Grade of students.
2. Average number of hours and minutes home work per week.
3. Number of teachers assigning home work.
4. The studies that demand most time.
5. The hours of free time the students have after school work is done.
6. A fair sample of home work assigned for an evening.
7. A statement of conditions under which home work is done.
8. Any further comment as to effect on health, bearing on scholarship, relation to home life, etc.
9. A statement as to the help that is given in school in training pupils to study when alone or at home.