

CLIPPINGS FROM THE PRESS.

Uniting of Rural Schools.

The uniting of rural schools into consolidated schools, and the joining of consolidated schools into organizations comprising three or four municipalities, were advocated by Dr. R. S. Thornton, minister of education, recently at the convention of Manitoba school trustees held at the Kelvin Technical High School. "The advantage of such a system," said Dr. Thornton, "is that you will be able to afford a superintendent of schools, such as they have in Winnipeg." Dealing with the work of such a superintendent, he said:

"In Winnipeg they never dismiss a teacher once she has been taken on. They simply move her from place to place until she has found the position for which she is best suited. Again, in Winnipeg, they are able to keep their teachers because they have a salary schedule. A teacher here is paid according to her experience."

Dealing with the situation created by the labor shortage, Mr. Thornton announced that provisions had been made to let the older pupils off for the busy seasons. He concluded with an appeal to the trustees not to let a dollar or two extra tax deter them from giving the children their rights.

School Readers in English.

Among the resolutions that came before the recent Saskatchewan Trustees convention was the following, proposed by the resolution committee: "That whereas the text books authorized by the Department of Education include (1) Alexandra Readers; (2) Canadian Catholic Readers; (3) Bilingual Series of Readers; (4) Eclectic Series of German Readers. Therefore, be it resolved that in the opinion of this convention a uniform system of school readers printed in the English language be authorized in the Province of Saskatchewan.

P. M. Friesen, of Rush Lake, who was later elected president of the association for the ensuing year, opposed the resolution on the ground that the present was not an opportune time for adoption of the proposal. It was not a question of patriotism, he stated, and he tested the feeling of the audience on the question of their attitude not only to the British flag, but to the teaching of the English language in the schools. His query as to whether there was a man in the audience who was not heart and soul in favor of British institutions, was greeted with cries of "No! No."

Mr. Friesen went on to say that owing to the conditions which existed in many parts of the province, reforms similar to those suggested in the resolution could only be brought about by degrees, and therefore he was not in favor of the resolution at the present time. His remarks were greeted with loud applause, and the proposal to table the resolution was sustained by a small majority.

A resolution to abolish corporal punishment in the Public schools of the province was defeated and the department was asked to take steps to make sure that all universal and other histories offered for sale in the province shall in reality be British histories.

Astounding Revelations in Saskatchewan.

Astounding revelations of the ignorance rampant in some of the rural districts of the province as the result of the non-enforcement of the provisions of the School Act were made



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by delegates at the convention of the Association of Rural Municipalities, Saskatoon, on March 8.

Whole municipalities are in some instances without a single school operating the year round. In some schools which are operating during the summer months only, the average daily attendance is less than three with sixty children of school age residing in the district. Entire communities of Mennonites capable of operating twenty-two private schools are without a single public school. These and other startling facts were related by some of the delegates in discussing methods for enforcing compulsory attendance and for compelling the erection of school districts where there are enough children to warrant such action being taken.

Workmen's Schools.

The arrival in all our Canadian centres of industry of complete laboratories, comfortable machine shops, great variety of subjects and competent staffs of scientifically trained men has created new interest in industrial circles and has led to a new class of evening classes, which now attract hundreds of young men and women where formerly tens were obtained with difficulty. The shops and laboratories are now crowded with ardent students. Now certificates of real value of efficiency mean something, while formerly they implied little!

Looking across the Atlantic, we see in the so-called municipal technical schools of Europe even a higher and more definitely practical training given than is found in Canada in actual training for trades. These are worth our notice.

Swiss Winterthur School (2½ to 3 year course), locksmiths, mechanics, electricians, metal casters.

Zurich School (3 years' course), carpenters, joiners, mechanics, commercials, electricians, spinners and weavers.

Jacquenard School, Paris, all varieties of women's wear. Nancy, France, for girls beginning at thirteen.

Denmark, at Vallekilde, children's embroidery, general embroidery, drawing, painting earthenware.

Vancauson School, Grenoble, France (4 years' course), craftwork, metal working, wood turning, electric machinery; metal work (forging), modelling, glove-making.

Today in Great Britain (even in Germany) in Canada and the United States it is generally admitted that apprenticeship is dead. Municipal and trade schools, it is now conceded, are the chief hope for men and women in the various handicrafts. The whole question of mechanical efficiency in all trades and industrial occupations is staring us in the face and it will not down.