

BUILDING THE NATION.

Education in Canada is placed under the control of the Provinces. We have no commanding Education Association for Canada. Canada has a large number of enterprising, capable, enthusiastic teachers whose new ideas have little or no outlet. The result is, they evaporate, they go whistling down the wind, and do not get a chance to have themselves tried out. They should be mediated to the Canadian people so that public opinion can express itself with regard to them, and so that the good grain may be separated from the chaff. The fact that there was a forum for ideas would encourage teachers to formulate their ideas.

This is one of the objects of the Educational Conference which is to be held in Winnipeg this fall, Oct. 20-22. The plan is to advocate the establishment of an unofficial bureau of the ablest experts that could be secured. The idea of the promoters of this project is that the bureau should be unofficial, without executive powers. It would simply guide and assist the educational thought of the country. The results of its labors would simply be available for the regularly constituted educational authorities. The result would be that provincial systems, instead of operating in more or less watertight compartments, would represent a friendly emulation in the best educational methods and ideals in the interests of the whole people.

Though this is the idea of the promoters of the Winnipeg Conference, the field will be open for the discussion of the merits of this proposition from the ground up. Any alternative proposition can be discussed freely. What is desired is an examination of the educational problem in the light of the nation's needs and our children's possibilities.

Why should Canada not have an agency for giving publicity in the Dominion to the best educational practice of the world?