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HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE CANADIAN WEST.

WHEN so much is being said to-day about the wheat-fields of our Canadian West, the inrush of immigrants, the building of railroads and the vast possibilities of our great national heritage, it is somewhat refreshing to turn aside from this almost threadbare subject and discuss the educational problem which we venture to think is in some fashion indissolubly connected with all the aforementioned industrial movement. Our object in this paper will be to describe in rough outline the present state and possible future of higher education in Western Canada.

Winnipeg, the commercial centre, is also the centre of educational activity in the West. Here is situated the University of Manitoba with its affiliated institutions which comprise four arts colleges, a medical school, a law school and a school of pharmacy. The medical college is a vigorous though as yet poorly equipped institution. The law and pharmacy schools are still in the embryotic stage.

The arts colleges, namely Manitoba, Wesley, St. John's and St. Boniface call for more detailed consideration since on them depends in no small measure the future of the university. Founded at different periods since 1870 by the four great religious bodies of Canada, they represent the spiri-

tual gift of Eastern Canada to the West at a time when the public resources were quite inadequate to meet educational needs. The men who were sent out to undertake this work brought with them to their land of promise something of that robust faith in its future which their fathers had shown in their conquest of the Ontario wilderness. In dark days they kept alive the torch of learning and strove to inspire the settlers with high ideals. The struggle was not an easy one nor the sacrifices few. Out of poverty and weakness strength grew. To these men the West owes a great debt of gratitude. All honors to them.

The instruction given in colleges was from the first of a robust and solid character. Classics and mathematics with a modicum of English and philosophy were the basic elements and unpractical as such a course of studies would seem for a young country whose energies were devoted chiefly to agriculture, it has justified itself by its results. Just here it is interesting to note that probably more students have hitherto been studying Greek in the little Province of Manitoba than in the whole of Ontario. Under the new regulations, however, Greek is destined to play a less conspicuous part.