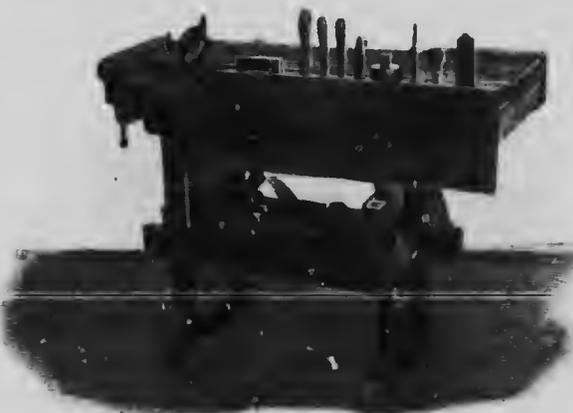


THE REFORM IS FAR-REACHING.

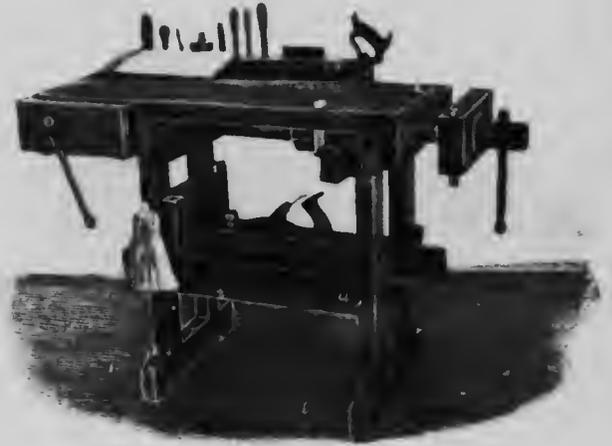
This Manual Training movement is only part of the educational reform which is making headway in Great Britain and other European countries. In 1897, a Royal Commission was appointed to determine how far and in what form manual and practical instruction should be included in the educational system of the primary schools under the Board of National Education in Ireland. The report of that Commission is a most instructive document, in which they point out certain changes in other parts of the system of national education which they think will become necessary with a view to the development of manual and practical instruction. The order in which they consider these changes, is as follows: Kindergarten, Educational Handwork, Drawing, Elementary Science, Agriculture, and some others.

IT WILL AFFECT AGRICULTURE.

The Kindergartensystem has already been quite generally adopted in many of the Canadian schools, and Manual Training is intended to include Educational Handwork and Drawing. Elementary Science is finding a place in many of the Canadian schools under the name of "nature studies." Regarding Agriculture, the report of the Commission says:



MANUAL TRAINING BENCH—BACK VIEW



MANUAL TRAINING BENCH—FRONT VIEW

"We do not think that agriculture as an art, that is to say practical farming, is a subject that properly belongs to elementary education. At present the study of what is called the theory of agriculture is compulsory for boys in all rural schools, and is highly encouraged by fees. But our enquiry has shown that this study consists, for the most part, in committing a text-book to memory; and we have come to the conclusion that it has little educational or practical value. We recommend instead that the course of Elementary Science to be taught in rural schools should be so framed as to illustrate the more simple scientific principles that underlie the art and industry of agriculture. We also recommend the maintenance and extension of school gardens, as a means by which these scientific principles may be illustrated and made interesting to the pupils."

The gift of \$10,000 by Sir William C. Macdonald to provide prizes for boys and girls in the seed-grain competition is in accord with the recommendations of these Illustration School Gardens.

The Progressive Agriculture Branch of the Macdonald Manual Training Fund has great possibilities of usefulness. Over 1,500 boys and girls have entered the competition; and there is no saying whereunto its educational influence may grow.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE SUBJECT.

The following are extracts from the fourth and final re-