

Teacher and Scholar.

The public school, its associations and improvement are subjects of growing interest and vital concern to every farmer's family in the West. We should be pleased to receive concise communications of a helpful and suggestive nature for this department of the "Farmer's Advocate" from those interested.

Educational News.

Since the closing of the schools before vacation, many changes are noticed in the personnel of the teaching profession in Manitoba.

Mr. W. P. Argue, who for the past three years, has performed the duties of chief clerk in the Education Department in a highly satisfactory manner, has resigned in order to accept the position of Superintendent of Schools in Vancouver, B. C. Mr. R. Fletcher, formerly of the Portage la Prairie Collegiate Institute, succeeds Mr. Argue as Chief Clerk in the Department of Education.

Messrs. Geo. Ross, of the Winnipeg Collegiate Institute; C. W. St. John, principal of the Aberdeen School, and Cecil St. John, of the Portage la Prairie Collegiate Institute, have commenced the study of law. They have been succeeded by Messrs. C. W. Laidlaw, A. E. Hearn, and L. C. Lee (Orangeville, Ont., H. S.), respectively. Mr. E. J. Motley takes Mr. Laidlaw's place as principal of the Isbister school.

The Winnipeg School Board have decided to devote extra attention to nature study, and have appointed Mr. J. B. Wallis director of nature study for the city schools.

The rapid increase in the population of Winnipeg has necessitated the building of three new schools. The Alexandra is already completed, and the Carlton and Pinkham schools, which will replace two small schools, are in the course of construction. When completed, each school will contain ten classrooms and an assembly hall, and are fitted throughout with all modern appliances.

The St. Boniface Normal School has been completed and is now occupied by the teachers-in-training. The Manitou Normal is nearing completion, and work will be commenced shortly on the Winnipeg Normal School. This term, there are four gentlemen and thirty-one ladies in attendance at the second-class Normal, and six gentlemen and thirty-seven ladies at the third-class Normal.

During the year 1902, forty new school districts were organized in Manitoba, and the number of teachers increased from 1,416 to 1,488.

The certificates held by Manitoba teachers are as follows: Collegiate, 44; first-class, 269; second-class, 903; third-class, 444; interim certificates, 189.

During the past two and a half years the manual training classes in Winnipeg have been supported by Sir William Macdonald. The period which Sir Wm. Macdonald had agreed to support these schools having expired in August, the Winnipeg School Board have very wisely decided to carry on the work, and it is to be hoped that the Government will in the near future render such

assistance as will enable the school boards in other towns and cities to establish manual training classes.

Schoolroom Decoration.

BY J. B. WALLIS' NATURE STUDY DIRECTOR FOR WINNIPEG SCHOOLS.

Some time ago, I wrote an article for the "Farmer's Advocate" on the "Laying out of school grounds." Now, properly, this article should have preceded that, as the best place to commence the beautifying is not the outside, but the inside of a school. If a teacher can get the pupils interested, and through them the parents, after the inside of a school is attended to, the outside is naturally next thought of.

What I have to say in this article is both practical and practicable, for everything mentioned has been tried by myself. Not only that, but, though it sounds expensive to speak of curtains and pictures and plants, it will be found on trial to really cost but little.

Is it worth while, however, to bother with decorating our schoolroom? Even to-day, we sometimes hear that "the schoolroom is a place for study, not for decoration." I do not purpose to enter into a long discussion of the merits or demerits of school decoration, but, while granting that the great reason for the existence of schools is to gain knowledge in them, I should like to mention one or two arguments for the consideration of those who believe school decoration a fad.

Most parents, and many teachers, underrate the effect of environment on the proper development of a child. What we in our childhood see and hear others do, we shall, consciously or unconsciously, do likewise, and the effect of our inanimate surroundings is no less real, deep and lasting. The child brought up in the midst of tasteful color and beauty in its many shapes will unconsciously learn to appreciate them, and appreciation of beauty means much happiness of the highest kind in after-life. Surround the child with neatness and order and beauty and it will imitate that which it sees around. The effect on manners, habits of neatness and personal cleanliness, from this one cause alone, is very great, as I can testify, and surely these are worth having.

Again, school decoration, if properly carried out by the pupils, for the pupils, under the teacher's guidance, should foster the school spirit: the feeling that school is not merely a place to which they are sent to have reading or arithmetic pounded or coaxed into them, but a place in which each has a personal interest. There are pictures which one has helped to buy or frame on the walls. There, in the windows, are plants which another has carefully tended. It is their schoolroom, theirs to keep clean, to ornament, to be proud of.

I know that many teachers are doing splendid work in school decoration, but others are doing little or nothing, usually because they do not know how to get about it. To them, then, I offer these few hints, first apologizing as a "mere man" for presuming to talk of decoration.

Before attempting decoration, a thorough clean-up should be instituted. In country schools, it is a good idea to have the cleaning done by the pupils and teacher. Windows, floors, woodwork of all kinds should be seen to.

Curtains will have been secured in some way, by subscription, if possible, and if not, surely two dollars or so is not much out of the teacher's pocket to begin the good work. The material I

have found the most satisfactory is a bright though not loud art muslin. This may be bought for ten cents a yard. White or cream scrim is very pretty and refreshing, but shows dust much sooner than the art muslin. The elder girls are usually delighted to make the curtains and get the ribbons ready.

The ribbons, which of course are to loop back the curtains, may be fixed something after this method, which I think is most satisfactory. Take, say, a yard of ribbon and tie a bow with the loose ends. This leaves a loop behind. Now, cut this loop about a third of its length from the bow. Sew rings on to the ends of the ribbon thus cut, and it is complete. Next, screw hooks into the window casing at the required height and pass the ribbon around the curtain with the short end in front; it will be found that when the rings are on the hook the bow will be in about the right place. It is well to bend the hook so that it nearly closes, otherwise, in summer, the wind may blow the curtains loose when the windows are open. The advantage of using rings is that you can drop the curtains across the windows without trouble.

If there is a porch, the curtains for its windows look best, I think, if made of white scrim. The lower panes only need be covered with a breadth of curtain for each pane. This may be effectively tied round the middle with a bright ribbon.

To mention that you would like pictures is usually to be crowded out with them. The children vie with one another in the bringing of fearful and wonderful creations of art. These may all be gratefully accepted, and carefully put away in a cupboard—for good. One is almost sure to get, however, a picture or two of the better kind. A landscape, perhaps, in black and white. This should be put up, and, as a general rule, I recommend black-and-white pictures as being far more artistic than the awful color effects which are so common.

Some say that if any money can be collected it should be devoted to the buying of one good picture. Now, this, to my mind, is ridiculous. One picture on a wall is not enough. Besides, the amount which could be collected would be far too small to buy a really good picture, and good copies of the best pictures can to-day be bought for a very small price. Get, then, reproductions of good pictures, but be sure that it is the pupils who pay for them. Make them feel that the school is theirs, not the teacher's or the trustees'. If they cannot subscribe, it is better, far better, to glean among what they bring for something suitable than for the teacher to purchase the finest works of art.

This may seem strange after what was said regarding the teacher buying curtains, but the object of that was to arouse the interest of the pupils, which often cannot be done until a beginning has been made.

(To be continued.)

Spanking Machine.

The State Training School at Redwing, Minn., has adopted a spanking machine, which supersedes the previous form of punishment by hand power. The superintendent reports that it works very satisfactorily, and can be easily regulated. The humiliation of being put in the spanking machine has more effect on the children than the punishment, and it is believed this improvement will add much to the discipline in the institution.

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GOSSIP.

ADDING TO THEIR HERDS.

D. L. Pope, a young rancher of the Knee Hills Creek district, some 60 miles north-east of Calgary, has a fine bunch of 600 head of cattle. Pure-bred Aberdeen-Angus bulls are used, the females chiefly being good Shorthorn grades. Lately Mr. Pope added 50 to that number, and W. H. Burnett, who has been with him for some time, has also purchased over 100 yearlings and two-year-olds, about half the number being for breeding purposes. These will go with the main herd and be under the same management.

The well-known family of champions owned by J. B. Thompson, Hamiota, and photographed on another page, have won

many first prizes and championships at Winnipeg Industrial. And for the last eight successive years they have won the same honors and silver cup at Western Manitoba's big fair. They have also won at both places for dray team. The great dam and champion, Lady Almondale 1916, has proved herself one of the best mares in America. Mr. Thompson in a recent note to the Advocate says: "Prince Delectable fills the bill for which I purchased him, proving a sure and impressive sire. It was no mean feat to stand fourth at last Winnipeg Show under the particular circumstances, among a dozen such horses, the pick of Scotland and America. My colts were too young, but their quality will keep and they will come again. Remember what Judge Ness and Dr. Anderson said at the ringside in Brandon Fair about them."

TRADE NOTES.

MANITOBA CEMENT CO.—By an almost unanimous vote, the town of Morden, on Sept. 8th, passed a by-law exempting the Manitoba Cement Company from taxation, except school taxation, for a period of twenty years. It also furnishes a free site of 22 acres. This enables the Company to go ahead and build. The officials of the Company have been spending considerable time on the location of late and plans are already under way to have the machinery on the ground as soon as possible. No further delay is anticipated and within another year this Company's plant likely will have its product on the market.

GASOLINE ENGINES have already

been tested by many threshers and farmers in this country with marvellous results. They are efficient and simple and ought to be durable. In many places it is difficult to secure fuel and water for steam power, and under such circumstances the gasoline proves a boon to those who desire a reliable power. In dry weather the danger from fire is reduced to a minimum and in the seasons of extreme frost there is no ice to be broken. Among the most up-to-date firms that are to-day claiming the patronage of this country, none are deserving of greater consideration than the Waterloo Motor Works, of Waterloo, Iowa, whose advertisement appears elsewhere in another column. Their famous Davis engine has proven to be a marvel of simplicity and strength. Write them for particulars.

In answering the advertisement on this page kindly mention the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.