

LITERARY DEPARTMENT

MISS RUTTAN, Editor

SYMPOSIUM

"The advisability of making industrial and business education an essential part of the curriculum of primary and secondary schools."

REPLY FROM D. K. ELLIOTT, ESQ.

(Of R. J. Whitla & Co.)

The plea of over-education of which so much is heard now-a-days is, in some respects, well taken and those who advance it have before them many examples of failure on the part of the educated, to succeed in the callings adopted by them, and thus apparently ground is found for the contention that too much is being done by the State in this direction. If, however, those who oppose additions to our educational institutions would shift their ground and strive for the introduction of more of the practical into our curriculum, much would be gained.

The youth, who at the age of 17 years completes his course preparatory to college entrance, has done well, but under the present system, rarely knows decisively then to what he will turn for his life's work. Were the industrial arts and practical business methods incorporated in our primary schools, the bent of the boy's mind would be discovered by the careful teacher, and his talents developed along that line, and many a lad who would have made a grand success of a mechanical career, would have been saved from becoming an indifferent lawyer or doctor.

It is pitiable to see the large number of active young men who, with what is now called their education completed, are applying daily to our business houses for positions, for which they may not have any qualifications, and at which, if obtained, they must be apprenticed, or educated for some years. To some extent this is the fault of our methods of teaching, and the remedy is to be found in turning the energies of our young people into the channels to which they are best suited.

Agriculture and kindred pursuits will for many years to come be the chief interest of Western Canada, and if we could educate our youth to a higher conception of the dignity and possibilities of this branch of industry, our country would rapidly advance to a high position among the nations of the world.

FROM DANIEL MCINTYRE, ESQ.

(Superintendent of City Schools.)

Technical education, wherever established, does not take the place of literary training, but supplements it. The requirements for admission to the best technical schools are at least equal to those for admission to the University, and no