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and it may iren on the played by games to were taken delight. kly teacher at interesting lrokenhead m an Eng

ig entirely of tw ather and cally Gali-Polish, Bo-carellment he general and many time there girls from grade one December 19, 1917

work. This is not because they are in any way deficient, but they have not had the facilities. In the senior room the same general conditions prevail. Generally, the pupils are as keen and bright as our own Canadian pupils and they can, if properly taught, generally not only learn the language but cover the work in the same time. I have in mind my first grade that did not know

the work in the same time. I have in mind my first grade that did not know a single written word of English before school opened on September 15, 1917, and knew only, a few words of English to say. Now, on November 5, they can read a great many written sentences and can understand a great deal of English. They are usually good writers and are very fond of manual work.' It might be added here that Mr. Stratton is putting in many improvements

ton is putting in many improvements as fast as he possibly can and the local member of the legislature, Donald Ross,

pays for half the manual training equip-ment put in every one of the schools in his division. Speaking of truancy, Miss Cumming said, "They are quite as

amenable to discipline as Canadian children, and I do not believe truancy is common here. I have heard of cases

is common here. I have heard of cases of pupils stealing away from home to come to school. I have not heard of a single case of truancy. I find that they are very anxious to please and accept punishment as due them if they have broken a rule. If the teacher can only devise ways of reaching the parents through the pupils, and in doing so, try to give to them the things they need most and to show them the good things which they can have as well as we, it is necessary that they should have a high standard and abide by it for these people are not slow at observing flaws but are equally susceptible to good influences. We teachers are at present teaching our girls to sew and are having them make garments which they can wear.'

Difficulties of the Official Trustee

The official trustee, of course, runs up against many difficulties in connection with the establishing of these

schools, but generally speaking, the at-titude of the people is very good and they welcome a thing which will give

they welcome a thing which will give their children an opportunity to be properly educated and to enjoy the advantages enjoyed by other Canadian children. Here is a typical instance of something accomplished by the official trustee. Such cases are frequent. Mr. Stratton, in last year's report, says: 'On October 26, 1915, I went to Elma the Transcontinental. Here was a

on the Transcontinental. Here was a one-roomed school in operation but in a badly crowded state. In the country

to the south were five schools, none of which were in operation. I visited Whitemouth River, Birch River, and Zamek schools, where no municipal organization existed. These schools were creeted in 1913. Two had been operated for a few months only. The first named had employed four secretaries but no teacher; in fact, a fine building

but no teacher; in fact, a fine building

had stood there two years without seats, stove, or blackboard. On meeting the trustees, I was told that the people could not pay taxes. I advised placing the group under an official trustee. This

was done, and all the schools were opened in January. By March 1, 140 hildren were enrolled and attending

children were enrolled and attending regularly. Fifty-nine names and been carcelled for evening classes. Up to June 30, about \$1,700 of taxes had been collected without legal process or actual threat of any. The other two schools south of Elma have been opened since the New Year and I expect to have a new room added to the school at Elma carly this fall."

Do these people want their children to become good citizens of a "larger" Canada? Unquestionably. I know a prominent man who visited the home of

every foreign-born settler in the con-stituency of Kildonan and St. Andrews

in the year 1914, when this educational question was a liver, issue than it is today. There was not a single

to is today. There was not a single home in which the people did not want, may they were anxious to have, their children learn the English language. As they said, "We want them to become teachers, doctors, Jawyers, and like other good Canadians, instead of having to remain dich discrete.

to remain ditch diggers and wood cut-

This is the greatest work in Canada. Talking of this problem in her last book, Agnes haut said, "Canada needs these brawny people of alien lands just as much as they need Canada. She needs their hardy qualities. They are the crude material out of which we must manufacture her, manhood. It is on the school rather than on the church that Canada must depend for the nationalizing of these alien races. None of these races have brought schools with them though they have brought a church. The work of preserving the national ideal of the future is on the cabeal. school." The same writer says, "Will Canada remain Canada when these new races come up to power? In twenty years the foreign vote will out-number the native one." The answer

to that question lies in the way these people are educated in the public schools of Canada and in the way they are treated by Canadian politicians.

Such is the change being wrought in one section of Manitoba by skilful, earnest methods of educational supervision. The county wacre these facts were gathered is one of the most fertile and most prosperous of the most rerche and most prosperous of the province. To one who has not been there it would prove a revelation. The Manitoba De-partment of Education under Dr. Thornton and his deputies is fulfilling its obligation to these people in a man-ner never attempted before in this province. What is more it is fulfilling

a duty to Canada as a nation which cannot be measured now, but the re-sults of which lie in the building of this cosmopolitan body of strangers who have come to us, into good Cana-

dians.

I am reminded of a striking picture hanging in a school I visited. It depicts a father and two sons from a foreign country landed in Canada. One asks, "Where is my country?" and the father, pointing across the sea, says, "The Empire is my country, Canada is my home." May all Canadians have a true realization of their duty in making that country and home what they ought to be to these people.

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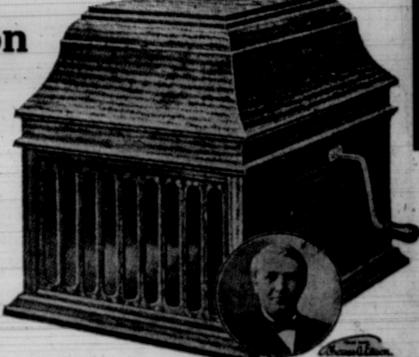
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