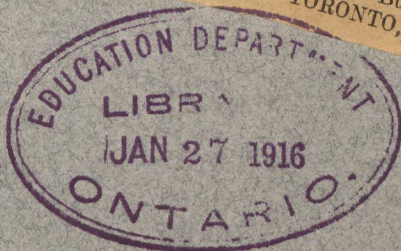


# The Western School Journal

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To open up to the farm population the cultural value of their work is the first object of the country school; and this can be done only by giving rural education a new direction and altering its ideals. The same subjects may be taught, but they will be taught in terms of the country. The grammar grades should most emphatically not attempt to give training in general farming methods or in agricultural theory. Children are interested in concrete vital phenomena, not in laws, and nature study should be used to excite the intelligent interest of the pupils in the life about them. But the manual training for these elementary grades might have a local and practical bearing. In place of the purely formal exercises so common in school rooms, the class might draw subject matter from practical problems of the farm, and build fences, drains and roadways instead of constructing useless wood, paper or metal objects. The school garden is an infinite resource; and could be made practicable by selecting for successive years the different crops suitable to the locality.

MISS WEEKS.

Winnipeg  
January, 1916

Vol. XI  
No. 1