

## School Grounds.

As one approaches the village of Westfield, from Saint John, a pretty school-house on the left side of the road attracts his attention. It occupies an elevated position, overlooking the broad expanse of the Saint John, with the pretty village of Westfield in the foreground. An uncared for and neglected school-house—a too common sight unfortunately—would be a blot on this fair picture. Instead we see a well proportioned building, neatly painted, well kept grounds, and flowers in every window. A single glance from the car window as the express rushes past, is sufficient to suggest refinement—on the part of whom? Why, of all concerned: The inspector of the district, for one sees other evidences of the same character along this route; of the trustees, for they have become interested and supplied the funds to meet the expense; of the teacher, for the same swift glance shows a touch here and there that has been put on and kept up day by day as good taste and an eye to pleasant surroundings would suggest.

We welcome the promise that such evidence as the above affords, of a time when an uncared for and shabby school-house will be reckoned a disgrace to the district that maintains it. Arbor day is doing much to bring about a better state of things; but arbor day, unfortunately, in some sections is only one day, a day when a good deal of sentiment is wasted in speeches and recitations, but the old rut is dropped into the following day to be pursued till another arbor day comes round when the same farce of speeches and recitations, planting trees to remain uncared for, will be enacted over again.

But the most indifferent cannot long remain unaffected when there is a steady increase of well kept and tastefully ornamented school grounds. Teachers, school officers and school children will follow the example that is beginning to be set and the influence will extend to whole communities.

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## FERNDALE SCHOOL.

## WORLD WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Take thy balance, if thou be so wise,  
And weigh the wind that under heaven doth blow;  
Or weigh the light that in the east doth rise;  
Or weigh the thought that from man's mind doth flow.

SPENSER.—*Fairie Queen*, Bk. V., Cant. II., st. 43.

## I.

T. Are your "reduction" tables of weights and measures used in every country in the world?

S. In English countries they are, I should think.

T. Had the English people more than one table for the same kind of weight or measure?

S. Yes; even yet we have Troy, Apothecary and Avoirdupois weight in our tables, not to mention long and short avoirdupois.

AN. S. And lineal, and cloth measure, not to mention the different kinds of cloth measures that used to be, English ells, Flemish ells, etc.

AN. S. And Dollars, and Pounds, Shillings, Pence, and Farthings, and Crowns and Guineas, etc.

T. Very true; and every other country had about as many varieties of its own kind, which made calculations for commercial people far more laborious than it otherwise would be.

S. And for the scholars in school, too?

T. Of course. We want two things, then. 1st, one set of tables for every country in the world; 2nd, the simplest possible kind of tables. It might be best to take the size of the world to give a starting point for a common measure for the use of the world.

S. It would be a very big measure, would it not?

T. Yes; but it should suit a Frenchman, a Russian or German, as well as an Englishman. You can call the system an English one on that plea. The Frenchman will call it French on the plea of priority of invention; and most of the other nations of the world can call it by their own name on the plea of its adoption and use.

S. And why have we not the system?

T. We have in law, although not in use. In 1864—the year of the introduction of our free school system in Nova Scotia—this system was made legal in Great Britain, as well as the common Imperial system which we generally use yet in Canada.

S. And is the new system legal in Canada?

T. Yes; for about twenty years. Don't you think it is about time we should commence to make the system popular?

S. Yes; it should have been done twenty years ago. But how do they take the world itself as the basis of the new system?

T. In 1799 a very accurate series of measurements to determine the circumference of the world was