

The British delegates to the Montreal meeting of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire have returned deeply impressed with the natural resources of Canada. To go to sleep at night with the train rushing through wheat fields, and to awake the next morning with wheat fields still in view, is, as one of the leading newspapers expresses it, a more telling exhibition of fact than the mere statement that the wheat belt is so many miles long and so many miles broad. The depth of the soil, and the economy practised in handling the crop and getting it to market, were also matters of surprise. The cattle ranges of the west, the mining regions, the railway facilities, and the extent of inland navigation, were better things much better appreciated after they were seen. That a railway journey of thousands of miles could be a pleasure trip in itself was to many of them not the least of the surprises that awaited them. Their trip to the Pacific coast, however, was not a mere pleasure trip, but a tour of investigation; and their realization of the great resources of British America will enable them the better to place the real facts of the case before the people of Great Britain, and awaken a new interest in the development of Canada by British capital and by British people.

#### **N. S. Manual Training Association.**

During the past month a large portion of the mechanic science teachers who did not have the opportunity to join the association on its formation at Truro on August 27th, have made application for membership in the association. From present indications it would seem that all the mechanic science teachers in the province will soon be members of the Manual Training Teachers' Association of Nova Scotia.

The prospects for manual training in Nova Scotia continue favorable. Every teacher of manual training available is now under engagement for the ensuing term.

The subject is more than holding its own. Dartmouth has this term established a twenty bench manual training school. Annapolis has placed an order for twelve benches, and will start as soon as these arrive. One or more adjacent towns will probably join with Annapolis very soon. With the projected manual training school at Middleton, the Valley bids fair to lead Nova Scotia in manual training schools.

It has been a matter for regret that towns wishing to start manual training have had to send to Boston for the benches. Through the efforts of Prof. Robertson and others a Canadian firm, W. C.

Edwards & Co., of Ottawa, were persuaded to manufacture the benches. All the towns starting manual training schools this term have secured Canadian benches through the agents, Cragg Bros. & Co., Halifax. They are the equal of the American benches, and the towns have saved from \$40 to \$80 in buying the home manufactured article. In fact, the money saved is almost sufficient to buy the general equipment for the school.

Manual training exhibits occupied more space in the Provincial Exhibition at Halifax than ever before. The exhibits were attractive, but, like most of the educational exhibits, represented the work of Halifax schools only. It is understood that in future the city schools will not exhibit, thus allowing outside schools, not able to compete with Halifax schools for obvious reasons, to have a fair chance in competing with one another. If this is done, a manual training exhibit never equalled in the Dominion should be the result next year.

To come back to the exhibit this year. Mr. C. L. Fultz, a graduate of the MacDonald Training School at Truro, had an excellent exhibit, both in drawing and woodwork. The Halifax Public Manual Training School made a good showing. St. Patrick's Home had the greatest assortment of models, but the crowded appearance and superfluity of varnish spoiled, to a great extent, the effect of the display. The prize winner was the Industrial School. For neatness of work and arrangement it was much admired. All the work, as before mentioned, was excellent, and favorably commented upon by all who inspected it.

Several of the town schools exhibited at the local exhibitions, of which more will be said later.

The Halifax school board, at a meeting held September 24th, passed a motion that manual training shall be taken by Grades VI and VII, in addition to Grade VIII, as at present, as soon as the necessary extension is found practicable.

It is the intention of the association to devote a portion of their page in the REVIEW to a "Question Department." Answers to questions of general interest will be given, as space permits. Questions should be sent to the secretary of the association. It is desired that the page may be made interesting to teachers in general, and we hope to make it more fully so from month to month.

Address all communications intended for this page to H. W. Hewitt, Secretary M. T. T. A. of N. S., Dartmouth, N. S.