

What is being done in this connection throughout the United States may be judged by an inspection of their playgrounds. In many of the older cities, these playgrounds have been established at considerable cost on account of the value of the land, and wise in the extreme will be the council which, for a growing city, will appropriate or buy tracts of land for this purpose. For instance, here in Winnipeg, which we all feel sure will one day rank as one of the world's big cities, there is still the time to acquire suitable parcels of land to be used as public playgrounds. Of course these playgrounds wholly lose their efficacy unless placed under proper supervision. Boys and girls using such playgrounds should be compelled, under the ban of expulsion, to refrain from indulging in fighting, or improper language, or bad conduct of any kind, and indeed should be expected to behave as they would in any well-regulated home. Truants and children of known bad habits should be excluded from participating in these privileges. What a boon playgrounds such as these would be to the parents of our boys and girls. What a relief to parents to know, especially during the summer holidays, when the schools are closed, that they can send their boy and girl to such a place for an afternoon, with the assurance that they will come to no harm.

Nature of Sports

Such playgrounds might contain swings for the little ones, a wading pool in which they could paddle during the hot summer days, and a sand pit. Simple gymnastic appliances such as parallel and horizontal bars for the boys, as well as a baseball ground and a football field, also a swimming pool. For the winter months, a toboggan slide and a stretch of smooth ice for skating or hockey for the larger children, and a warm playroom for the babies.

We need not imitate what is being done in other cities, but should select games and amusements such as are adapted to our climate. Many of the large pieces of ground surrounding our schools might be fitted up for this purpose. During the winter months, portions of the river might be utilized by keeping a stretch of ice clear and using the banks for toboggan slides. The exhibition ground might be used with advantage for this purpose, instead of lying idle the greater part of the year.

If this matter can be undertaken by the school board, so much the better. And if the teachers in our city schools can take an interest in the scheme, it would be a good thing for the teachers, too, for they can learn more about boys during an afternoon's play than they can in six months in the school room. The boy in the school room is covered with an artificial veneer of good manners,