

Canadian canal system would be found wanting ; but that the Canadians do not take so narrow a view of the question, and recog-

nize that waterways and roadways are essential to the commercial life of the country.—Scientific American.

COMMENTS.

DREAD OF THE KINDERGARTEN CHILD.

There are kindergarten children and kindergarten children, to be sure ! Old-fashioned people are coming to the conclusion from experiences of various kinds, however, that many kindergarten children are not all that they were taught in their own youth to expect little folks to be ; they are forward, not easily controlled, non-observant of others' rights, and obnoxious in various ways. That this is not a necessary result of kindergarten training is evident from the fact that the best kind of kindergarten child—may his tribe increase—is to be found, not so conspicuously perhaps, but still in very appreciable numbers.

The great difficulty with certain kindergartens is suggested by a Boston correspondent to the *New York Evening Post*. The writer is herself a kindergartener, and her words are of special significance from that fact. She suggests that the mistake made by many kindergarteners is in allowing too lax discipline. "Dread of the Kindergarten Child," in the primary grades, is the result.

In some schools where the kindergarten has been established as part of the system, she says, children who are promoted from the freedom of these elementary rooms to the primary grades are liable to be troublesome elements. Primary teachers are met with the

vexing question of discipline at the very outset of their term. The freedom allowed children in the kindergarten finds no parallel in higher grades, and the little people who have been allowed to exercise their free-will under this play-teaching are often harmed. The influence of the kindergarten in the way of developing a tendency to turn everything into play often reaches to the higher grades. Habits acquired here are frequently never shaken off. Strict discipline, such as must be observed in higher grades, cannot be secured with little children, but a certain amount of discipline is absolutely necessary if the child is to be properly prepared for his later school life.

The writer expressed herself vigorously, "Play times in the kindergarten," she said, "may well be nearly without restraint, or with only so much as good manners demand, but when it comes to the gift lessons of the day, the teacher should insist upon the children's attention." In referring to the kindergarten visited she said that while the teacher was giving a lesson story, the children were part of them attentive but the others were laughing and playing among themselves. This is one great fault of the kindergarten. Attention must be secured in the instruction periods or the child is learning lessons in inattention and thoughtlessness,