

one that will induce the average school patron or director to connect himself gently but firmly with a spade and do some excavating in the hitherto unexplored country surrounding the crossroads temple sacred to the "three R's."

Let us observe Arbor Day in every school with appropriate songs and exercises; but let us not forget to plant when planting needs to be done. For schools whose premises are treeless the proper thing to do would be to dig rather than sing. What is the use of singing and reciting about trees when planting and caring for trees is needed?

In this article we will have in mind the improvement of school grounds where all the conditions are at zero—where the building would be a discredit to any owner, where the ratepayers are very indifferent, and the only resource is to awaken a public spirit on the part of the children. The first step should be the development of local pride. Something may be accomplished among the parents, but to the true teacher the pupils may be counted upon as the mainstay in such an undertaking. To such a teacher I should say, do not for a moment believe that the improvements seen about the school grounds will be all the good that is wrought. Fifty years from now there will be a few gray-haired men and women who take more interest in the appearance of their "front-door-yard," who give their child, and their grandchildren encouragement in having a garden "all their own," and extend sympathy and service to the better appearance of the school grounds, because of your altruism when you taught the district school.

"Who does his duty is a question
Too complex to be solved by me,
But he, I venture the suggestion,
Does part of his that plants a tree."

LOWELL.

Observance of Arbor Day.

About the time you hear the first spring notes of the Robin or Song Sparrow, prepare public opinion in your school community for a spring cleaning. By this time the ground will be bare of snow and it will be soft. Ask some of the pupils to bring rakes, and have them gather up the rubbish. You can all play gypsies when you gather about the bonfire. This will be a favorable time to sow grass seed, for no doubt the school lot will need it. Your pupils can at least get chaff from a hay mow. It will be a mixture of grass and weeds but the latter can be pulled out after germinating. It is possible that some farmer may give you some clover and timothy seed, and this will be still better.

Before any planting of trees or shrubs is done the school grounds should be enclosed by a neat fence. If you can't induce the trustees to do this, get up a concert or basket social and raise enough money to pay for fencing the grounds—"Where there is a will, there is a way."