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MANUAL TRAINING AND THE TRADES UNIONS.

BY D. K. CLARKE, SUPERINTENDENT OF MANUAL TRAINING DEPARTMENT,
WOODSTOCK COLLEGE.

IT has always been a matter of surprise to me that any opposition to Manual Training should come from the Trades Union, the source from which I would have expected its most hearty support. I believe that this opposition arises from a mistaken conception, and that Manual Training only needs to be fully understood and the Trades Union will be foremost in petitioning for its introduction as a part of our general school system. It is a duty that devolves on parents and the state alike to provide boys with the best fitting for life that is practicable. This needs no argument here; the efforts made in general both by the home and by the state indicate the recognition of this duty. The serious labor problems that have in recent years been claiming attention, and the apparently crowded condition of all the trades, make parents anxious that their children may not be left behind in this race for position, and make the State also keenly alive to the best interests of her sons. There is a class of men for whom there is always room, who are in demand everywhere. These are men who think, men who are self-reliant and worthy to be relied upon, skilful and fertile in resources in whatever position they are thrown.

Such men are always at a premium, and will always find room in the world. Now these are precisely the characteristics that Manual Training is specially designed to develop, and it is for this reason that it claims the attention and favor of all the laboring classes.

What is Manual Training? In the first place its object is educative, just as is the study of classics or mathematics. It seeks, however, to educate the practical side of a boy's nature, and claims to add a very important factor which in his more purely theoretical studies is apt to be overlooked. The course usually consists of a regularly graduated series of exercises in wood and metal, as these materials afford, within easy reach, the widest range for educational purposes. In connection with, and throughout the course, drawing is insisted on, and, owing to its importance, is given as prominent a place as time and facilities will permit. The tool and machine work comprises exercises in carpentry, wood-turning, pattern-making, wood-carving; and in metal work, forging iron and steel, including welding, tempering, brazing, etc., and machine work, including exercises on the iron planer, shaper, engine-lathe, milling