

form which is making headway in Great Britain and other European countries. In 1897, a Royal Commission was appointed to determine how far and in what form manual and practical instruction should be included in the educational system of the Primary Schools under the Board of National Education in Ireland. The report of that Commission is a most instructive document, in which they point out certain changes in other parts of the system of National Education which they think will become necessary with a view to the development of manual and practical instruction. The order in which they consider these changes, is as follows: kindergarten, educational handwork, drawing, elementary science, agriculture and some others.

AS IT WILL AFFECT AGRICULTURE.

The kindergarten system has already been quite generally adopted in many of the Canadian schools, and manual training is intended to include educational handwork and drawing. Elementary science is finding a place in many of the Canadian schools under the name of nature studies. Regarding agriculture, the report of the Commission says:

"We do not think that agriculture as an art, that is to say practical farming, is a subject that properly belongs to elementary education. At present the study of what is called the theory of agriculture is compulsory for boys in all rural schools, and is highly encouraged by fees. But our enquiry has shown that this study consists, for the most part, in committing a text book to memory; and we have come to the conclusion that it has little educational or practical value. We recommend instead that the course of Elementary Science to be taught in rural schools, should be so framed as to illustrate the more simple scientific principles that underlie the art and industry of agriculture. We also recommend the maintenance and extension of school gardens, as a means by which these scientific principles may be illustrated and made interesting to the pupils."

The gift of Sir William C. Macdonald to provide prizes for boys and girls in the seed-grain competition is in accord with the recommendations of these Illustration School Gardens.

The Progressive Agricultural Branch of the Manual Training Fund has great possibilities of usefulness. Over 1500 boys and girls have entered the competition; and there is no saying whereunto its educational influence may grow.

THE CHANGE TO BE GRADUAL.

The Commissioners go on to say:

"We think that the changes recommended ought to be introduced, not all at once, but gradually and tentatively. They should be tried first in the large centres, and afterwards extended to more remote districts. It would be necessary, at the outset, to engage the services of experts, from outside the present staff of the National Educational Board, whose duty it would be to organize the classes, and to aid the teachers with their counsel and instruction. But we have no doubt that this work, after a little time, could be taken up by the ordinary staff of the Board. Again it is obviously important that all teachers should be trained in the new subjects; and the programme of the Training Colleges must be framed to this end, with as little delay as possible."

THE PLAN FOR CANADA.

The plan which the generosity of Sir William C. Macdonald, of Montreal, has made it possible to adopt for introducing manual training in the Public Schools of Canada was based very largely on the information and recommendations of that report. It is intended to furnish an object lesson of manual training in the Public Schools of at least one town or city in every province in Canada for a period of three years. Sir William has also provided a fund sufficient to permit the teachers in training at one Normal School in every province to receive instruction by thoroughly qualified instructors.

Under the Macdonald Manual