

A Successful Experiment.

Inspector Carter writes the REVIEW that the first experiment in the centralization of schools to be attempted in all Canada is now being successfully carried into effect at Welchpool, Campobello, Charlotte County, in the Province of New Brunswick. The pupils are being conveyed from Snug Cove to the Central graded school at Welchpool. In addition to the educational advantages, the cost up to this time has been little more than half that of maintaining the separate school. The plan at the outset did not commend itself to all the rate-payers, but its advantages are becoming apparent to all—the advantages of the graded system combined with the environment of the country district.

The trustees of this progressive district are John J. Calder, Silas Mitchell and L. P. Simpson. The teachers are A. W. Hickson, principal, and Mary Mitchell, primary.

Much educative work has been done along these lines in Charlotte County and other sections of New Brunswick, and a few object lessons are all that is necessary to bring about a more general participation in the advantages of consolidation of schools.

For the EDUCATIONAL REVIEW.]

Manual Training.

Encouraging reports of the rapid progress of the movement for the introduction of manual training into the school systems of the Dominion are to hand. The question of some special provision for the establishment of manual training schools, has been, and is, engaging the attention of the various provincial authorities, and in some cases proposals are to be submitted to the local legislatures in the near future.

Professor Robertson, the enthusiastic administrator of the Macdonald Fund, to whom Canadians owe a deep debt of gratitude for his whole-hearted efforts in this and other directions for the welfare of our children and schools, must be extremely gratified with this. It is well under two years since that the first of the schools under the fund provided by the bounty of Sir Wm. Macdonald was opened, the large majority of them not having been in existence for half that period. The object lessons provided by these schools have had an excellent effect, and they are proving for themselves much of what their enthusiastic advocates claim for them. In places where they have been established, the ordinary subjects of the school course have not suffered. Indeed, on the testimony of some of the teachers of these subjects, the literary and other studies have been positively improved. The welcome change afforded by the

manual training lesson, the increased intelligence and interest displayed by the children, and the reaction on the brain of the carefully co-ordinated drawing and practical work with the hand, account largely for this.

It is with pleasure we have to record the fact that a maritime province leads the dominion in the practical adoption and establishment of manual training departments, in its public schools. We have before referred to the liberal grant offered by the government of Nova Scotia to school sections starting and maintaining these departments of school work, and we are glad to learn that it is being widely taken advantage of. At the moment of writing, Nova Scotia has seven public manual training schools in full operation, and others are in course of establishment. Halifax, Truro, Lunenburg and Bridgewater, have dual departments, providing woodwork for boys and domestic science for girls. Wolfville, Pictou and Yarmouth have opened their woodwork departments and propose starting domestic science next year.

The demand for teachers of woodwork was met by the provision of a special training course in the Macdonald school for Nova Scotia, at Truro, the 1901 graduates of which are nearly all employed in the schools of the province, in this work. From the syllabus of the course for 1902, which has just been published, it appears that Truro has been chosen by the Macdonald fund as the training centre for teachers of the Maritime Provinces. Another centre has been established in Ottawa for mid-Canada, and a third is to be located in Winnipeg for the western teachers.

The syllabus gives full particulars of conditions of admission, etc., and it is noted with satisfaction that "successful teaching experience," or "Normal School training," is essential for those wishing to become students. Copies of the syllabus and full information can be obtained from the undersigned,

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Director for N. S. of the Macdonald Fund, Truro.

[And now the REVIEW would like to report progress all along the line. What is being done in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island to take advantage of the splendid experiment in manual training so generously founded by Sir William Macdonald? The public school children of Fredericton (and perhaps in Summerside) receive instruction in manual training. But what about such an important industrial and commercial centre as St. John? What about Moncton, Sackville, Chatham, Newcastle, Campbellton, St. Andrews, St. Stephen, Woodstock, Sussex? What about Charlottetown and other towns? Is it not time there was a waking up?—EDITOR.]