

educated for the position of school teacher and was given charge of a school. The system of education has been improved since then, until it is now universally acknowledged that Ontario has the best public school system in the world.

I might speak of the various training schools for teachers, such as the Model schools for third class, and Normal schools for second class teachers, but it is not my present purpose to do so. I shall now pass on to speak more directly of that phase of school life where we meet—

The miniature man,
Barefoot boy with cheek of tan,
With his turned up pantaloons,
And his merry whistled tunes ;
With his torn brim's jaunty grace,
Happy smile upon his face.

Also :

The charming, healthy, modest lass,
Innocent as the springing grass ;
Dressed in homespun, neat and clean,
Knowing naught of fashion's queen.

City children have, of course, advantages which are denied their country cousins in their educational career, e.g., they have the continual direction and supervision of the teacher in their work, owing to the fact that each teacher has charge of only one or two classes, whereas in the country districts, owing to the ungraded character of the schools, the pupil is, of necessity, very often left to his own resources. This, however, has the effect of developing the youthful mind, and forming a self-reliant character ; and is, no doubt, one of the reasons why many of our greatest and most useful men have sprung from the noble army of farmers' sons.

City children have also more time to devote to home study, not being burdened with such tasks as feeding pigs, milking cows, chopping wood, etc. ; neither have they so many hindrances to regular attendance, because, in the spring, summer and autumn seasons, the farmer's son, after he has reached the age of about 12 years, is almost indispensable in such employments as harrowing, logging, binding grain, raking hay, picking potatoes, etc. The girls also, during the summer months, are very often kept at home from school to help bear the domestic burdens, which would otherwise fall on the too often over-burdened shoulders of the farmer's wife. In the winter season also, the distance from school often renders it impossible for the younger members of the family to attend, except they are driven in sleighs by their fathers or elder brothers ; but, we are sorry to say, that the acquisition of wealth is, in rural districts, often thought by the parents to be of more importance than the education of their children.

But this state of affairs has also its advantages in favor of the rustic youth.