

Some Ideas of Loyalty.

There are some ideas concerning loyalty put forth in this number of the REVIEW to which our readers may give careful attention. Inspector Steeves points out very clearly that the spring time brings with it a desire on the part of every boy or girl to get away from the routine of lessons, and he suggests work appropriate to the season to satisfy this desire and direct it to lines of useful accomplishment. In another article there are suggestions to increase one's love of country by means of school excursions, and Mr. Peacock shows that manual training has its part in the work. In these and other suggestions given there is much to help the thoughtful teacher in stirring the hearts of the young people to a love of their country and the opportunities that are in waiting for them.

There will be much taught on Empire Day about the geography and history of the mother country, and the great men and women who have helped to make it what it is; of the resources of the Empire, and especially of Canada; and of the glories of the natural scenery of this beautiful land of ours. And all this is right and proper. But unless we are careful we shall *teach away* from what the boys and girls should know best and love best—their own home and its surroundings, the glorious bits of scenery that they may see from near hills, and the possibilities of prosperity and happiness that lie in the cultivation of the slopes and valleys around them. Best of all, the formation of habits of industry and self-reliance will enable these youths to seize upon and make the greatest use of their advantages.

Empire Day will stimulate teachers to make every school day an empire day, not to impart unrelated facts of history, geography, patriotism, but to develop boys and girls into men and women with a love for the land in which they live. To do this the school, especially the country school, must have clearer ideas of the nature, needs and environment of the child. There has been much progress in the betterment of rural schools in the past few years, but much yet remains to be done to bind their interests closer to the needs of the community, to make them centres of intellectual life, and to adjust the training of head and hand so that it will produce far better results than hitherto in rural education.

School Excursions and Patriotism.

A recent number of the *Journal of Geography* has an interesting article from a correspondent on "School Excursions as a Means of Teaching Patriotism in our Common Schools." The suggestions are so instructive that the REVIEW ventures to quote portions of the article with the hope that our teachers may be induced to follow the example of the Swiss schools. Parts of our Canada lack none of the grandeur of Switzerland, while in every section of it may be found scenes well fitted to nourish patriotism in the breasts of our youth. For to be patriotic means, first, to know and then to love the bit of country where one was born, and amid the scenes of which he grew in stature and in knowledge.

The patriotism of the Swiss people is proverbial. Every tourist visiting this little country among the Alps experiences the feeling that here, if anywhere on the globe, the people are truly patriotic. Even small children, when asked, what they love most, will immediately answer, "Switzerland." To them it seems strange that such a question should be asked.

The schools of Switzerland, from the lowest grade in the common school up through the university, see to it that the children gain a first-hand knowledge of their native land. School excursions under the guidance of competent teachers are a vital part of the school curriculum. Half-day excursions to some near-lying historical landmark or natural scenic wonder are frequent occurrences in every school. A one-day excursion is undertaken every semester (a term of six months), and to cap the climax, a two-day excursion is indulged in every year. On these occasions, the pupils and teachers alike see with their own eyes the high mountains and wonderful glaciers, of which they so often have read and sung. They pick the alpine flowers and slake their thirst in the cold glacier streams. But best of all, they are imbued with that spirit of grandeur and majesty which only those who have come close to nature can experience.

Is it strange that emigration from this little mountain stronghold diminishes every year, in fact it never was great, and that the Swiss invariably returns to his native land to live and die for it?

The D. E. A. Meeting at Victoria.

The approaching meeting of the Dominion Educational Association at Victoria, B. C., should attract a large number of teachers from every part of Canada. Since its organization in Montreal in 1892 the Association has had an uncertain existence until recently. At times, held under the wing of provincial educational associations, it has been all but