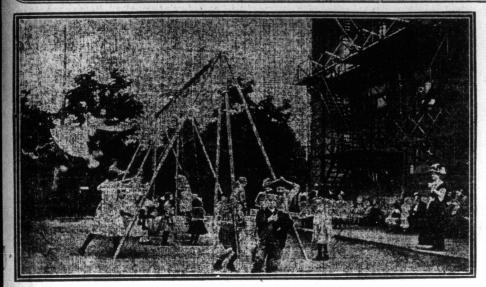
Thoughts of Playgrounds in Midwinter Holidays

Supervisor Recommends in Favor of Four Districts and a Playground in Each----Suggestions as to Apparatus---High Fences Recommended.



Scenes like this could be witnessed at any time at the supervised () aygro unds at Hess Street School

While bleak December winds whistle ow swirling in the fence corners, the minds of the children, even though preupied with thoughts of Santa Claus and Christmas, cards, skates and sleds, bookey and sleigh rides must often turn to the good old summer days spent at the supervised playgrounds at the Hess Street School. Nor are theirs the only ninds that are dwelling upon the ven-ture of the Playgrounds Association last summer. The officers of that associa-tion are finding time to think over the days to come and to plan for the coming summer. Will their plans result in four supervised playgrounds? That is what Mr. Pryke, who had charge of the Hess street-grounds, this year, recommends. His report shows how greatly the children of the northwest part of the alternation placed at their disposal. An aggregate attendance of 12.272 can fairly be taken to mean that, if his recommendation in favor of four grounds next year is carried out, and the grounds are opened during the whole nine weeks of the summer holidays the aggregate will prohably reach 75,000.

A number of suggestions made in the following report are well worthy of condays to come and to plan for the coming

owing report are well worthy of con-

With the completion of the first sea- | watched the children at their play. The leafless trees and send the son's work of the playground movement, the conviction has come to most of the citizens of Hamilton that it has filled a vacancy and has started to fulfil a work much neglected in the past, and will do much to improve the children of the community socially, physically and morally.

morally.

After a delay of three weeks, on account of the necessary apparatus not arriving, the committee of management was able to have the opening of the first supervised playground of the city of Hinnilton take place on the afternoon of Monday, July 28th, at 4 o'clock. It was very gratifying to all concerned to view the large crowd of both children and adults, as they gathered to take part in the formal opening of the grounds. Veth 500 children and 200 adults preser, the opening exercises were commenced by a

132. Although nothing in an organized way was prepared for the girls, they took part in many games. However, for the girls a sewing-class was started, having an enrollment of seventy-two, an average attendance of forty-five and eight sessions were held, having a total attendance of 360. At the last session, twenty-seven prizes were distributed for the work done. This class was in charge of Miss Powis, Mrs. Blackburn and Miss Kerner.

Every piece of apparatus was well

Every piece of apparatus was well used with possibly the exception of one. The boat-swings for the babies were excellent, the arrangement of the seat being so that it was next to impossible for the little ones to fall out. The sand boxes were a great source of pleasures. boxes were a great source of pleasure for the little tots. Children up to eight years had a great liking for the sand. The sand used this year was not of the best and I would recommend only Beach-sand to be used in the future. The number of see-saws was found to

be enough, although seldom idle. One good feature was the fact that not one child was hurt, either from falling off or having their fingers crushed, the construction of the see-saws eliminating the danger of accident at the fulcrum of the board. The uprights for the high jump were well patronized, but a pole in pole-vaulting would add much to the equipment. The parallel bars, perhaps were well patronized, but a pole for pole-vaulting would add much to the equipment. The parallel bars, perhaps, is one of the things that could easily have been done without, although it was used a little, but anything along that line needs constant attention to be of value. The swing donated by a friend is hardly the kind for a playground, as it was a constant source of trouble, continually needing repair. The giant stride took well; one fault, that may be remedied, was the handle grasps causing much discomfort to the hands. The large swings were perhaps the most used of any of the appliances, a crowd always being in waiting for a turn. The same fault can be found with the swings as with the giant stride, the grasps causing first day, when the time to close came, At first the hours were set from 9 to 11 in the morning, from 2 to 5 in the afternoon, and 7 to 8 in the evening. In a week's time these hours were changed to be from 9.30 to 11 in the morning, 2 to 5 in the afternoon and 6.30 to 8.30 in the evening, the reason of the change being fewer children came in the morning than in the evening. These hours were kept for the remainder of the season. with the giant stride, the grasps causing great blisters to form on the hands of the users. Grasps covered with leather might eliminate this trouble. Provision should be made for children between the ages of 5 and 10 years, for they wave too large for the string of the string was the way in which the children could was the same and faces. What was most picasing was the way in which the children too large for the string was the way in which the children too large for the string was the way in which the children too large for the string was the way in which the children too large for the string was the way in which the children too large for the string was the way in which the children too large for the string was the way in which the children too large for the string was the way in which the children too large for the string was the way in which the children too large for the string was the way in which the children to the string was the way in which the children to the string was the way in which the children to the string was the way in which the children to the string was the way in which the children to the string was the way in which the children to the string was the way in which the children to the string was the way in which the children to the string was the way in which the children to the string was the way in which the children to the string was the way in which the children to the string was the way in which the children to the string was the way in which the children to the string was the way in which the children to the string was the way in which the children to the string was the way in which the children to the string was the way in which the children to the string was the way in which the children to t Most of the time was taken up in the interesting of both girls and boys in organized games, having every available foot of space occupied at the same time. In the second week, baseball and Most of the time was taken up in the formal opening of the grunnis. With 500 children and 200 adults present, the opening exercises were commenced by a few brief remarks from the president, Mr. R. T. Steele followed by a reply in response to the ladies by Mr. John M. Eastwood, and a few patriotic songs sung by the children, led by Mr. James Johnson, after which the grounds were formally opened by his Worship Mayor McLaren.

All that afternoon the children entered with a vim into the games, while the children players. The total number of boys in organized games was a taken up in the should be made for children between the ages of 5 and 10 years, for they were obtained the numbers of small for the large swings. An intermediate swing with arrangements at the action of the future of the movement when a perusal of the attendance for the season was 12.272. Of the formally opened by his Worship Mayor McLaren.

All that afternoon the children entered with a vim into the games, while the clidderen took hold of things and the numbers of small for the large swings. An intermediate swing with arrangements at the action of the children between the ages of 5 and 10 years, for they were took hold of things and the numbers of the games, the way in which the children between the ages of 5 and 10 years, for they were took hold of things and the numbers of small for the large swings. An intermediate swing with arrangements at the action of the action of the future of the movement when a perusal of the attend at tendance for the same to the games, the way in which the children took hold of things and the numbers of small for the large swings. An intermediate swing with arrangements at the action of the future of the future of the fideren with the action of the same this action of the steep of the season was 12.272. Of the seas



Scene at the closing of Hamilton's first supervised playgrounds, the last day of the summer holidays

Mention ought to be made of the clo Mention ought to be made of the closing day, Saturday, August 28th, when three hundred children gathered to take part in the various games conducted as a closing exercise for the season of 1909. Races and games were entered into by every class of girls and boys with a vim, although no prizes were given for the winners, the afternoon passed very pleasantly and was a fitting wind-up of a very profitable season.

If possible, a sanitary drinking found

hands and taces. What was most pieces-ing was the way in which the children took hold of things and the numbers that came to the grounds day after day., It speaks well for the future of the movement when a perusal of the attend-ance is gone into. The grand total at-tendance for the season was 12,272. Of these 272 used the privileges in the

shoots, etc.

lention ought to be made of the closed as the currence of the Association for next year. The city could be divided into four districts at playground so and the closed as the currence of each district as possible. I would have every child register in their configurations of girls and boys with a vim, longh no prizes were given for the mers, the afternoon passed very issually and was a fitting wind-up like and for each playgrounds ought to be the aim of the Association for next year. The city could be divided into four districts a possible. I would have every child register in their configurations of the cast in the cast i should be appointed to take full responsibility, and for each playground two assistants, one man and one lady (having experience with children if possible) could act as instructors. Then arrangements could be made for the organization of both girls and boys in games, drills mayching at

of both girls and boys in games, drills marching, etc.
Centres for Districts Stinson street school; Hess street school; Picton street school; Barton street school.
If possible, each ground should be enclosed by an eight-foot fence, and have one main gate. I would recommend that the grounds be open only at certain periods, for we must not forget the home duties of the child. Each ground to be duties of the child. Each ground, to be

adequate, should at least have 2.500 equare yards available space.

Upon examination two of the centres named will be found inadequate, but I would recommend locating future playgrounds us near them as practicable.

To make the first venture of the Playgrounds Association a success required the earnest efforts of the officers, who are:

Honorary President-Mr. Adam

First Vice-President -- Mr. J. M. East Second Vice President - Mrs. John Cre

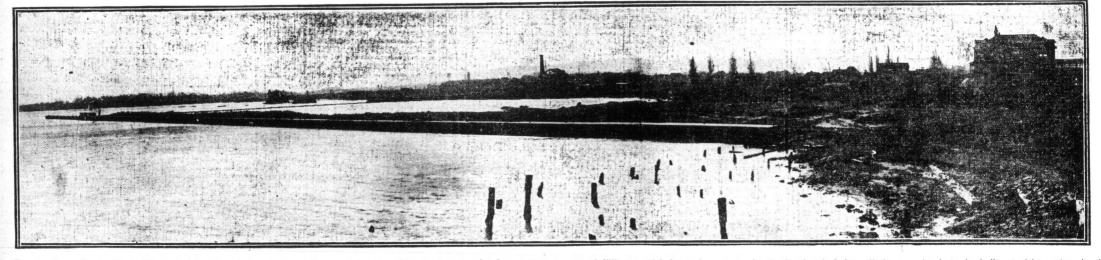
Third Vice-President, Mrs. (Dr.) Wool

Treasurer Mr. R. K. Hope.

Secretary-Mr. A. McKenzie.

The officers had the co-oporation of ne Board of Education, two members the Board of Education, two members of which are on the executive commit-tee. They are Messrs. C. R. McCullough and J. E. Wodell. The other members of the executive are Mrs. W. C. Hawk-ins, Mrs. C. S. Wilcox, and Messrs. W. M. McClemont, N. D. Galbreaith and G. S. Wilcox.

VIEW OF THE NORTH END IMPROVEMENT WORK



length of the revetment wall and the new sewer flu me at the end. The city has alread'y done a large amount of filling, r eclaiming a large area. At the land end of the wall the extension is to be built, at right angles. back ground are seen the new Home for Incurables, the House of Refuge and the old Street Railway power house.

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appeals to Queen Alexandra so much as Christmas. Her generous, sympathetic nature responds to the Yuletide sentiment with enthusiasm, for it gives her the occasion for exercising her benevo-lence in many directions, and she re-joices in the joy of others.

"A merry Christmas to you, granny," said the Queen on one occasion to an

old cottager at Sandringham.
"I'm feared I'm not likely to feel mer

"I'm leared I'm not likely to feel merry with the rheumatics in my bones," grumbled the old lady, as she dropped her curtsey with a woebegone air.

"But you are going to make it merry for the grandchildren," persisted the royal visitor, with a gracious smile. "That is what you and I have to do, rranny."

That is what you and I have to do, granny."

The Queen is a woman of simple, homely sentiments, and would never forsake her own fireside to spend Christmas in Egypt or the Riviera. She delights to observe the old traditions, and is as pleased as any of her grandchildren to see the hall decked with holly and mistletoe and the Yule log blazing on the hearth. It is the Queen's love of the good, old-fashioned Christmas which induced the King after his accession to forego the statelier court pageants of the historic Christmas at royal Windsor in favor of continuing to spend the season in Norfolk amongst their friends and retainers.

on in Norfolk amongst their and retainers.

The Queen has inherited the spirit of Yuletide from her Norse and German ancestors, and it was z. joy to her to find that she could continue the traditions in which she had been rearred, in the country of her adoption. At the old Gule Palais in Copenhagen she had received visits from Santa Claus long before that delightful person had been

curred the first Christmas after the King's accession. The Queen was confined to her apartments at Mariborough House by indisposition—the court had not then taken up its abode at Buckingham Palace—and was unable to leave London for Sandringham. Instead of repining over the unfortunate circumstances which had spoilt her own Christmas, she began to think over the sufferings and disappointments of others, especially the poor little children condemned to beds of sickness in the hospitals when other boys and girls were enjoying the fun and frolic of the festive season.

Then a happy idea struck the Queen in her invalid's room. She would send parcels of surprise presents to the sick children in the hospitals with which she was most intimately associated. Parcels of toys and sweetmeats were made up under her direction, and a kind message added in her own handwriting. The parcels were despatched in one of the royal omnibuses on the afternoon of Christmas Eve to the various institutions selected by the Queen.

At the Cheyne Home for Incurable Children on Chelsac embankment, a boy in one of the wards was amusing himself on this particular afternoon with a reflector handglass as he lay in his cot by the window. The poor little fellow had been in bed for three years, and it must have cost him some bitter pangs when the handglass revealed merry troops of children passing along the road King's accession. The Queen was con-fined to her apartments at Marlborough

troops of children passing along the road full of the joy and activity of the fes-tive season. "How nice it must be to be

was accustomed to see plying along the embankment, and a dignified footman was crossing the pavement, carrying a large parcel from the vehicle to the hospital.

the children were hard to manage, but this fault was soon remedied, as next day the ringing of a hand-bell was the signal for dismissal, which the children soon learned to obey.

At first the hours were set from 9 t

The news spread round the ward, and all the children were on the tiptoe of

The news spread round the ward, and all the children were on the tiptoe of expectancy.

Soon the matron appeared with the tidings that the Queen had been thinking about the little children at Cheyne Hospital, which she had often visited, and had sent them presents for Christmas.

The sick lad at the window forgot the burden of his suffering life. Santa Claus on his white horse, with panniers loaded with gifts, was not more wonderful to his imagination than was Queen Alexandra's Christmas omnibus thus suddenly mirrored before his eyes.

The poor little fellow has since passed away, but to the last he would talk about that memorable afternoon, and generally ended the narrative by saying: "Once when the Queen came to the hospital she said that I was an old friend of hers."

We may recall another occasion on which the Queen proved herself a veritable Santa Claus. It was long ago, when she was Princess of Wales. One evening in December she chanced to see a young seamstress waiting with a parcel of work at Marborough House. The evening in Deember she chanced to see a young seamstress waiting with a parcel of work at Marlborough House. The girl looked troubled and tired, and, feeling that there was a sad story behind the girl's face, the Princess took her into her room that she might examine the garments which she had been making for the royal children. She praised the neatness of the work, and asked the girl

ones Santa was still a stranger to the majority of our boys and girls. The Queen has watched the rise and progress of Santa's popularity in this country with peculiar pleasure, and occasionally emulates the practices of Santa Slaus herself.

This reminds me of an incident which coccurred the first. Christmas after the embaykenet, and a dignified footward to be plant of the control of the contr tity, spoke kindly words to the girl, and gave her some fruit and delicacies for her sick mother.

A few days later, on Christmas morn-A few days later, on Unristmas morning, the girl received a delightful surprise in a beautiful sewing machine, accompanied by the message, "A Christmas gift from Alexandra." Then she knew that the beautiful lady who had spoken to her at Marlborough House was the Princess of Wales herself.

The Queen takes the keenest interest

in choosing her Christmas presents,

which is a formidable task, considering her lavish generosity in so many directions, and her desire to present her friends and relatives with something entirely fresh and novel each year.

As the Queen cannot go to the shops, the shops have to come to the Queen, and some weeks before Christmas the royal warrant holders display their novelties at Buckingham Palace. The articles are arranged in one of the rooms royal warrant holders display their nov-eltices at Buckingham Palace. The arti-cles are arranged in one of the rooms for their Majesties' inspection. The goods are marked in plain figures, so that the royal patrons know exactly what they are ordering. The King, makes a rapid survey, and settles his choice in a thoroughly quick and busi-ness-like manner. But the Queen enjoys the occupation, and spends many pleas-ant morning hours in selecting her gifts. Almost every conceivable fancy article finds a place in the Queen's selection, but she is particularly attracted by artistic

chase of presents to the articles bought of rispection by the royal tradesmen, as there are many benevolent societies kindly word for everybody as the men and institutions which she likes to help

as there are many benevolent societies and institutions which she likes to help forward by giving orders. She is also a frequent patron of the Royal School of Art Needlework, which produces such lovely artistic work and novelties suited for gifts, while the technical schools at Sandringham supply the Queen with many beautiful articles.

During the brief stay in London which the Queen makes immediately before Christmas she superintends the proparation of her gifts for despatch to the courts of Europe, for she has personal friends and family connections amongst all the reigning houses. The presents to her beloved sister, the Europessor of Russia and their family are sent by special courier. In the last days before the holidays the Queen, like less in the proparation of predaing her letters and admiring her presents. Then sent by special courier. In the last days before the holidays the Queen, like less in the press of Russia and their family are sent by special courier. In the last days before the holidays the Queen, like less who enjoy her intimacy to tell her of pretty and unique things which they are the special objects of the Queen. All the members as kelidl.

The presents to her the family are the special objects of the Queen and pendic the

ure at the annual distribution of beef to the employees on the royal estate, which takes place in the coach house on

makes a rapid survey, and settles his choice in a thoroughly quick and business-like manner. But the Queen enjoys the occupation, and spends many pleasant morning hours in selecting her gifts. Almost every conceivable fancy article finds a place in the Queen's selection, but she is particularly attracted by artistic things and curious things.

Children's toys are a special feature in the novelties displayer for the Queen's selection as there are an enormous number of little folks, exclusive of her nine

and served by the King. The special Sandringham mines pie is also in evi-dence. The Queen's orchestra plays dur-ing the meal, and the quaint music of carol singers is heard at intervals. After dinner there are games and merrymak ing for the young folks, in which their Majesties and the house party guests join with great heartiness.

guests join with great heartiness.

On Boxing Day the Queen distributes the presents from the family Christmas tree to the royal children, and there are festivities arranged for the school children at various centres on the estate, and all get a present from the Queen. During the holidays there is yet another distribution of presents at the Christmas party for the servants. A huge Christmas tree stands in the ball room loaded with charming gifts, and every loaded with charming gifts, and every one of the Sandringham servants and those from York cottage also receive a present from the hands of the Queen, who is assisted by the Prince and Prin-cess of Wales and their elder children. A good deal of merriment is occasioned by the method of distributing the pres-ents. Each guest draws a ticket from a bowl in the servants' hall, and receives a bowl in the servants hall, and receives a gift from the tree corresponding to the number. It may happen that one of the maids gets eigars and a footman a "rascinator." Exchanges are effected to the satisfaction of everybody.

Star—But why should I marry you, Mr. Manager? Manager—Well, I discov-ered you, and you know new stars al-woys take the name of the discoverers.— Kansas City Journal.