

whether this highway shall be a means of leading also the older nations forward in the paths of ever-advancing civilization it is our first duty to make the most of this land for our lives, in doing that we may so impress the travellers who cross our country that China, Japan, and even Europe, may gain from us stimulation, inspiration, and guidance to our advantage and theirs. That will depend upon our education. Because our distances are great, and because our population may be comparatively sparse for another generation or two, it is important that the people should plan for efficient systems and forms of education. From our eastern shores we have a thousand miles of territory in summer fragrant with the blossoms of apple trees and clover; then we have a thousand miles of primeval wilderness in forests and minerals on the edge of the Arctic water-shed; beyond that towards the setting sun a thousand miles of prairies. There as elsewhere agriculture is not the breaking of clods, but the harnessing of sunshine into crops for the profit, service, and pleasure of mankind. Beyond these thousand-mile fields, we have five hundred miles of snow-capped mountains pregnant with coal, and gold and silver and lead, traversed by valleys where wheat and peaches are among the fine products. With an inheritance like ours, it still remains for education to contribute further to the development of natural resources, of individual talent, and of human society.

EVOLUTION OF SCHOOLS.

Education is a word of many meanings—an elusive term, difficult of definition, often used to represent experiences unlike in their nature. It is not a something or subject detachable from life. It may consist of, or result from, a series of experiences arranged to lead to the increase of (a) knowledge, (b) power, ability, and skill, and (c) good-will in individuals and in the community. For those who hold that the primary aim of education should be to qualify a person to earn a living, its progress will be denoted by the application