

won for him and the institution over which he has so long and so honorably presided, a reputation that few have enjoyed. As superintendent of education, he will bring to the discharge of his duties a knowledge of the educational needs of the province, gained from long experience and faithful work. Prince Edward Island may well be proud that she has at the head of her educational affairs a man who has been so long identified with her schools,—one who is possessed of excellent executive ability, fine scholarly attainments, and an honorable record.

Manual Training.

Manual training has made considerable progress in Nova Scotia. About ten years ago a manual training school was established in Halifax. The first teacher was Lee Russell, B.Sc., of Worcester, who had been trained in the Polytechnic Institute of that town. In order to assist the school commissioners in demonstrating the advantages of this new subject, the government gave a grant of \$700 for two successive years.

Mr. Russell was successful, and the experiment gave so much satisfaction that he was taken to the Normal School at Truro, so that all the teachers in training there should receive the benefit of the new ideas. Although the government grant was withdrawn, being required at the Normal School, yet the Halifax School Board employed Mr. Nelson Gardner, who is still carrying on the work so auspiciously begun.

About two years after the introduction of manual training into Halifax, another school was established in Wolfville. It has also been very successful.

Finding that the training of the hand was good for boys, the women of Halifax thought that some such training would be equally good for the girls. After much opposition they succeeded, in 1897, in inducing the School Board to take over a school of cookery, which they had established with Miss Helen N. Bell, a graduate of South Kensington, as teacher.

Influenced by the results of Mr. Russell's teaching at the Normal School, also by the pioneer work in Halifax, and by the reports from other countries, the Council of Public Instruction was convinced that the time had come when hand work for both boys and girls in school should be encouraged by government grants. Last year, accordingly, the legislature passed an act, granting fifteen cents for every lesson of two and-a-half hours, or about six dollars per year for each pupil in regular attendance at cookery or wood-work—a most generous allowance, not, however, to exceed \$600 in any one section. An amendment now before the house provides twice this amount to Halifax on account of its larger population, and to Truro as the seat of the Normal School.

Such liberal provision having been made by the government, just at the time when Sir Wm. Macdonald is establishing manual training schools in all the provinces, will be doubly effective in making education more practical and better suited to modern requirements and ideas.

Mr. T. B. Kidner, F. B. I. C., has been appointed director of manual training for Nova Scotia, and Miss M. D. Patterson, principal of the Truro school of domestic science. They each have able assistants. Mr. H. W. Smith, B. Sc., is principal of the school of agriculture, and a member of the Normal School staff. These departments are affiliated with the Normal School, so that every teacher trained at that institution carries back to the country an accurate and clear idea of the fundamental principles of the leading industries, besides some practical skill, and the greatly improved mental culture that results when the motor and executive activities are trained in conjunction with the intellectual, moral and æsthetic faculties.

We had the pleasure a few weeks ago of seeing these various departments in active operation. It was a most interesting sight, and a great change from the old regime of thirty years ago. The enthusiasm and absorbing interest of the students, old and young, the accuracy and beauty of the work, and the extent to which the faculties of some students, hitherto accounted dull, were awakened—all these things were evidence of the fact that manual training is no fad, but has come to stay and largely develop as a necessity arising from the changed conditions of modern life.

In New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island no provision has yet been made for manual training in the schools. The establishment of the Sir Wm. Macdonald manual training schools at Fredericton and Charlottetown should pave the way for its introduction into both provinces. In Prince Edward Island there has been an agitation for some years in favor of such training. When the agitation becomes strong in both provinces, and the chief industrial centres show a disposition to move in such an important matter, the governments will undoubtedly show their readiness to co-operate by making suitable provision for it in the educational scheme.

St. John, Fredericton, Moncton, and other towns are important industrial centres; but their apathy in the matter of industrial education does not speak well for their enterprise or educational spirit. Manual training as a part of common school education is not on trial. It has for many years been a fixed and settled purpose, especially in those countries that are striving for industrial supremacy, such as Germany, Switzerland, France,