

MANNERS IN CANADA.

The following open letter was addressed to the Ontario Minister of Education. It is given here in the belief that the statements made are applicable to other provinces than Ontario:

Sir.—I have just listened to a most interesting conversation, to which I was attracted by overhearing a remark that of all the civilized nations on the globe Canadians have the worst manners. This remark was made by an observant Canadian, who had lately returned from an extended trip abroad. A comparison was made between the ordinary people of this country and the people of the continent of Europe, Great Britain, Mexico and South America. Another gentleman placed the blame on our educational system, by which he claimed that boys are taught that absence of respect to superiors in age or station is the necessary outward and visible sign of manliness and a democratic spirit. The conversation was interesting to me, because it is only a short time ago that a gentleman from Europe travelling in this country made the remark to me that he had never met in any country with such a lack of civility from clerks in the hotels and elevator men in office buildings, and it was because of the absence of any attempt to teach manners that I took my boy away from one of the public schools in the city. It is only in schools that cost from \$300 to \$500 a year that you can get your boy taught to address his superiors and elders as "sir," and it is in my opinion worth the cost, for manners maketh money.

Some time ago a Toronto bank manager told me that he rejected the son of a well-known lawyer who applied for a position in the bank simply and solely on account of his behavior at the first interview. To my suggestion that he could be taught the banker replied that his office was not a nursery, and a bad-mannered clerk could easily lose the amount of his salary to the bank. I am told that this is one of the reasons why positions in the banks are now being filled by young men from Great Britain. Again, only three weeks ago a prominent lawyer in the city spoke to me of the difficulty he had in getting a civilly-spoken office boy, and said that he had advertised for "an English boy with references."

If manners were taught in our public schools the earning capacity of our people would be increased by millions of dollars. The courageous and able manner with which you have tackled some of the difficult problems with which our public education bristles, commands our admiration. Why leave out this most important matter? It is not an easy subject for practical treatment, but something can be done by driving the lesson home in the school text-books, by the training of teachers in the Normal school and by the instruction to inspectors to include the matter of manners in their reports, and it should be done. We pay a large school taxation. The working people of this country are all entitled to be taught the blessing of good manners which at present is only within-reach of the well-to-do.

CANADIAN.

SPRING.

The Spring is here! The children have turned to "dibs" and skipping-ropes, the housewife has been caught by the house-cleaning fever; and the young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love. The human race is at the starting-post for the year.

Nature sets an example that there can be no mistake in following. The grass root does not attempt to put life into the worn out blades, it sends forth new shoots; the last brown leaves that have held tenaciously to the branches through all the winter storms are not renewed, but are unceremoniously shoved off to make room for the new; "there are no birds in last year's nests." Nature says, "Let there be new life," and there is life.

Now is the time to rake off a lot of old prejudices, dig out all the foggy notions long since gone to seed, and plant in their stead new ideas that have within them the living germ of common sense, give them air and sunshine and constant cultivation and the harvest will inevitably be plentiful. Plant in good soil what was gained from the visit of the seed selection special, which

was presented by the Horticultural and Dairy Conventions, or what the experienced man on the next farm has to offer, even if it necessitates the digging out of a method planted by grandfather. It was new when he got it and he rooted out something to find room for it, and he would be the first to say, "Go thou and do likewise."

The early frosts of failure through inexperience will be sure to get some of the choicest of the shoots, the grass-hopper will prove a burden, but in spite of it all there will be a crop.

IN THE WORLD OF LITERATURE AND ART.

Pka Isaka Seme, a full blooded Zulu prince and a student of Columbia University was unanimously awarded the championship for oratory in a recent contest. His subject was "The Regeneration of Africa." The prince will finish his course at Columbia, take a course of law at Oxford, and then return to his native land to act as attorney in representing the interests of his people before the British government.

EXAMINATION DATES.

The practical teachers' examinations in reading, music, second and first class science, will be conducted by Messrs. W. A. McIntyre and Alexander McIntyre of the Normal school staff, at the following centers in Manitoba on the dates specified: Virden, May 15; Souris, May 17; Brandon, May 19-21; Carberry, May 23; Portage la Prairie, May 24-26; Dauphin, May 28; Neepawa, May 29-30; Selkirk, June 1; Morden, June 4; Winnipeg, June 5-9. Candidates from neighboring centers or surrounding districts may present themselves for examination on these dates and they are recommended to do so, otherwise they must pass the practical test in science upon entering second class Normal school.

There will be no practical test in third class agriculture this year, but candidates writing on the paper in agriculture should be prepared to answer questions based on the experiments at the end of the text-book.

THE REWARD OF WORK.

Generally good, useful work, whether of hand or head, is either ill-paid or not paid at all, I don't say it should be so, but it always is so. People as a rule only pay for being amused or being cheated, not for being served. Five thousand a year to your talker, and a shilling a day to your fighter, digger and thinker, is the rule. None of the best head work in art, literature or science is ever paid for. How much do you think Homer got for his Iliad? or Dante for his Paradise? Only bitter bread and salt, and going up and down other people's stairs. In science the man who discovered the telescope and first saw heaven was paid with a dungeon; the man who invented the microscope and first saw earth died of starvation, driven from his home. It is indeed very clear that God means all thoroughly good work and talk to be done for nothing. Baruch, the scribe, did not get a penny a line for writing Jeremiah's second roll for him, I fancy; and Stephen did not get bishops pay for that long sermon of his to the Pharisees; nothing but stones.

—JOHN RUSKIN.

The Winnipeg members of the Canadian Woman's Press Association held a meeting to make arrangements for the annual meeting of the association which will be held in Winnipeg in the latter part of June.

The death is announced of Professor MacCallum of the University of California. He had just completed a scientific treatise which will be of immense help to the medical profession. He was a Canadian by birth, his parents and sisters being residents of London, Ont., at the present time.

The education bill introduced into the British House has passed its first reading. Under this bill religious instruction may be given two mornings weekly with the consent of the local authorities, but not by the regular staff. Parents shall not be compelled to attend, and no part of the expense shall be borne by the ratepayers. The bill also provides for a further annual grant of £100,000 for the purposes of extending the system of technical education.

INGLE NOOK CHATS

LIVING BY SYSTEM

I have just finished reading an article in one of the new magazines wherein are set forth the grievous troubles and trials a woman suffered when she undertook to arrange her time systematically and live up to the schedule. She was a teacher in a college and lived in a boarding-house, so that she had some spare hours and no home duties. As she lay in bed and planned how, for one week, she would have a time for everything and do everything on time, the scheme looked perfectly feasible and enticing. So much time for reading the new periodicals, another period fixed upon for study, and an hour every day for music seemed to be a satisfactory filling out of the day when the regular work was done.

But alas! "The best laid schemes," etc., and being neither a mouse nor a man, but a woman, does not make the plans less prone to "gang agley". Sunday she considered a good day to begin the systematic life and church-going a proper step for the initial one; but a street-car derailed brought her to the sacred edifice half an hour late. A caller who came to stay a second remained all afternoon, successfully crowding out the quiet reading that had been planned. The next day some unexpected letters had to be answered, a persuasive invitation to the theatre was accepted, and that day was lost from a systematic point of view. On Tuesday, an hour's walk with a friend was extended until dark, and was followed by a party given in her honor and not to be avoided. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, each received their respective interruptions of clubs and meetings and callers, and the carefully arranged program was not once allowed an opportunity to carry itself out. On Saturday she reviews the week and expresses herself thus: "My system is

all right; of that I am sure—if I were the only being on the planet, or if I could control the actions of all those around me. If I could do that—ah! no longer should I be the victim of the non-professional and non-systematic. For I should persuade some millionaire philanthropist to provide a vast asylum for the segregation (with due forms of amusement) of the people who have no other definite way of passing their own time than by wasting that of others. I am not sure that I should absolutely wipe out the calling system, but I should never again in my tenderness of conscience submit to the chronic "dropper-in" and the yet more deadly "stayer".

But since this method of carrying out my system, beautiful and simple though it be, seems at present impracticable, I am meditating something else as a temporary expedient. It is a movement in favor of the establishment by government of a rigorous press censorship for the purpose of suppressing all literature which maintains the feasibility of a systematic life in a society where all created things are in league to oppose it. For if that will-o'-the-wisp had not been set glimmering before my deluded eyes in guileless youth, I might to-day be happy and worthless."

Such was the plaint of the "Bachelor Maid" by reason of the thoughtless people who rudely jostled her system off its track. She gets an answer in the same journal giving a reason and a remedy for the unsatisfactory state in which Saturday night found her. Here it is: "There are inconveniences connected with the married life for women, but they are not to be compared with the disadvantages of remaining single. When a woman marries she is no longer an ambitious little comet tangling herself up in the tail of



Illustration by F. A. A.

THE WOODMAN.