

CANADIANIZING CANADA

Nettie Burkholder, writing on "Our Brother the Slav" in the December issue of *The Westminster*, describes, most interestingly, the habits of the 250,000 settled in Manitoba, and other provinces. One paragraph is of interest to all the Canadian people:

In the home land much attention has been given in recent years to education. Many of the people coming here are fairly well educated in their own language. As it is true of all nations, the intelligent class are most attractive, and thus some very inter-

esting people are met with among the immigrants, but the children are growing up in some parts of Canada with little or no knowledge of English education or education of any kind. In Alberta, school attendance is compulsory and the schools among the Ruthenians are well attended. However, as in all new countries, the children are kept home as soon as possible to help with the work.

Here we have the old indictment. Neglect by our governments. — That there is neglect in Manitoba no fair critic doubts. We have had a great deal more jockeying than legislating or wise administering in connection with education in "foreign" settlements. A primary, and the most important branch of instruction, in all our schools should be teaching of the English language, in the interests of all the people, and necessarily in the interests of the nation. The present is a good time to press home the needs of the case in Manitoba. The Canadianizing of our public school system, from top to bottom, would be an act displaying ten thousand times more loyalty than all the stump loyalty speeches of cabinet ministers between now and the end of their respective careers. The fact is that there is nothing in talking loyalty, unless men act loyally. It is not loyalty to Canada or the Empire, or the "foreign" peoples who have come among us, to perpetuate foreign languages. The Manitoba Government must mend its ways. Let us have some loyal declarations on school policy, followed at once by loyal practicing.