

# Educational Work in Manitoba

## The Function of the Elementary School

The institutions which have as their function the education of the youth of this province for their vocations in life may be classed roughly under three headings:

(a) The elementary school, including the first eight grades up to the entrance examination. This is the school where the great mass of our people are educated, as not more than 10 per cent. ever pursue their education further.

(b) The high school. Here our boys and girls may pursue further studies along scholastic lines, or fit themselves to earn their living in various trades or callings.

(c) The higher institutions, embracing the Agricultural college and the university, with its various faculties of arts, law, medicine, pharmacy and engineering.

It is the function of the elementary school to furnish the keys of knowledge. Here the child learns to read, that he may be put in touch with the accumulated wisdom of the race. He grapples with the problems of arithmetic in order that he may interpret the relations of time and space. He learns writing, spelling and composition that he may impress his thoughts upon others, and he studies geography and history that he may know something of the world in which he lives and something of the country in which

he owes the duties of citizenship. He is taught to observe the changing phenomena of nature. He receives some instruction in the elements of drawing, and he lightens his labors with song. Some idea of the value of a sound physique has impressed his instructors, and at stated times the healthful exercise on the playground is supplemented by well-chosen drill. The city boy attains some facility in the use of tools, his country brother is learned in the lore of the farm and seasoned with responsibility by the daily chores. The city girl learns something of home economics, the country lass is serving her apprenticeship in the home. Moral education has not been forgotten, and the child gains some conception of the duties which he owes to himself, his fellows and his Maker.

An education such as outlined above is the birthright of every Canadian child, and means are being taken to ensure it to every boy and girl in Manitoba. It is true that in every new country where sparse settlement, poor roads and rigorous winters are factors to be taken into account, conditions must frequently fall far short of the ideal, yet the people of the newly-settled districts of our province are making most praiseworthy and successful efforts for the proper schooling of their children.