

Practical Education

A number of citizens had the pleasure a few evenings ago of viewing photographs thrown on a screen, depicting life in the Ruthrenian settlements of Manitoba. These large settlements, five in number, cover a wide area of territory. The pictures showed the real life of the people, the very humble beginnings, and then the hopeful signs of progress as the peep-hole windows in the one-roomed, straw-thatched cottages were abandoned for a better class of homes with the cheery light of larger windows, characteristic, by the way, of the new general atmosphere which these new settlers are discovering for themselves. Mr. W. R. Murchie, engaged in uplift work in rural sections in connection with the Agricultural College, spoke sympathetically and in very optimistic language of our newer settlers. Their disadvantages are many, they are pioneering, gradually making their way. Now and then a neat white-painted frame school house loomed up on the horizon. These little buildings are the hope of our country. There is abundant evidence that where a flourishing school, with the

surroundings of modernism, is found, there we may confidently reckon that a new light has come, or will soon come, into the homes of our new people. The school house is the country's hope, and it will prove the great revolutionizing influence in the lives of these Canadians in embryo. Politics — of the venal kind — is now as far removed from our educational work as the poles. Thank God for that! The policy is no longer "what party use can we make of these semi-Canadianized voters?" The motto is "what can we do for our new settlers?"

Such illustrations as were shown to a small group of our citizens the other evening should be seen by all of our people. Tens and scores of thousands of foreigners are among us. They are here to stay. They are bound to have a great influence on the future of our country. What is our duty? To cease indifference and encourage them to rise to the highest level of Canadian citizenship. This can be done very practically and efficiently by extending a broad and deep sympathy in all that concerns their lives. In their religious life they are free—fully free—to follow their own beliefs, Roman Catholic or Protestant, but in social and educational and practical honest bread-winning, the State—which means all the people—can do our new settlers a great service. That the greatest amount of work may be accomplished, and that pioneering life may be thoroughly understood, we might wish that in our churches on Sundays such views as those shown at the Agricultural College the other evening should be seen, with intelligent explanation. There is a great missionary work—not in any narrow denominational sense—to be accomplished at our very doors. "The ends of the earth" are here in Manitoba in respect to the lives of many fellow-Canadians. A student of foreign settlement life said to The Tribune yesterday, "the Canadianizing of settlers from Europe must be done by Canadians; we must blame ourselves before we blame these people from abroad who, up to the present, have had little example, save the notoriously bad example of a set of corrupt politicians who have imparted the idea that the chief thing in Canadian politics is graft." Hon. Dr. Thornton, President J. B. Reynolds, and such men, have a grip of Western problems. They are men of character and action, with an understanding of substantial foundation work. But it is only by public interest and public co-operation that the desired, uplifting results can be fully attained.