

EDUCATION IN MANITOBA.

has been made to prepare teachers for communities where some other language than English is generally spoken by the people. In order that the teachers in these schools may gain the confidence of the parents of their pupils, it is especially desirable that they should be conversant with the language spoken in the locality where they are employed. It is also essential that they have an efficient command of English. French teachers are prepared in the school at St. Boniface, and the Morden school is for teachers who go out to work in German communities. The Brandon Normal School provides both academic and professional instruction for Ruthenian teachers, and the Poles are trained in the Winnipeg institution.

Teachers' Special Course.—Each year the Summer School of Science and Handicrafts enables teachers desirous of strengthening their teaching equipment to take special courses in school gardening, nature study, wood and iron-working, domestic science and household art.

Foreign Travel.—The "Hands Across the Seas" Movement, organized under the auspices of the Department, enables teachers at comparatively small expense to avail themselves of the advantages of foreign travel. Already 394 teachers have taken advantage of the opportunities afforded and have visited England, Scotland, Ireland, France, Italy, Malta and Egypt.

Consolidated School Districts.—The enlarging of the administrative unit has been chiefly by way of consolidation, and there are now fifty-nine consolidated districts in Manitoba. The advantages of the system are numerous, and have been frequently recapitulated. The disadvantages are due to difficulties arising out of the problem of transportation. Seven years' experience in this province has shown the scheme to be a great improvement upon the one-roomed country school.

School Gardens.—A director of nature study and school gardening devotes his time to the supervision of this work throughout the province, and more than 400 schools were reported during the year as having school gardens worthy of the name. A special grant of \$25 per annum is paid to every teacher who does satisfactory work along this line and earns the recommendation of the local inspector.

Schools for the Deaf and Blind.—Manitoba has a School for the Deaf, situate near the city of Winnipeg. This institution has 103 students in attendance, of whom 54 are males and 49 females. These pupils take up the regular work of the public school course with the exception of algebra and geometry. The School for the Deaf lays great stress on the value of technical training, and equips its students so that their greater capacity for service may outweigh the natural disability under which they labour. Each boy is taught a trade, and the aim is to make him so proficient that he will never be without work. This aim has so far been realized. Blind children from Manitoba are at present cared for in the Ontario School at Brantford. There are now four Manitoba children there. They are clothed by their parents, and the province pays board and tuition at the rate of \$150 per child for the school term.