

School Notes

Since the editor of the Gazette has opened his columns to the public school, we wish to take the opportunity to answer, in a small way, some reflections that have recently been made in a popular magazine concerning the public school system. In giving the president's address at the State Educational Association last week, Superintendent S. Henry Wolfer of Minot referred to this matter as follows:

"When an otherwise reputable magazine, read by hundreds of readers, all intelligent people, makes such a savage attack upon the public schools as one did in its three latest issues, the time for a united protest against the spread of such a distortion of facts ought to be taken up vigorously by every educator, every educational magazine, every educational association and every parent who believes in the public school as the greatest institution on the face of the earth for the development of noble character and loyal citizenship."

A writer in the last issue of the Educational Journal, the leading educational weekly of the whole country, discusses these articles, running in the Ladies Home Journal, for that is the magazine referred to above. He says: "I regard the charge, that the public school system is a stupendous failure, as essentially unjustifiable. Did I believe otherwise, I should choose another calling or even learn a trade." No doubt most teachers feel the

same way.

Further on the same writer quotes from one of the articles: "All this time to meet the requirements of the ninety five per cent, who do not go to college, absolutely nothing is done. Nothing, in any way, is done to offer to fit ninety-five out of every hundred boys and girls for practical lives," implying, of course, that the public schools exist simply to prepare students for college. The writer replies: "Nothing offered, nothing done for the tens of thousands of poor but ambitious boys and girls who, obliged to leave school before reaching the high school or college, where they could get special training for their life work, study at night to finish the work begun, take correspondence courses in their special subject, or enrich their lives by spending their leisure hours in communion with the great souls of the past. Nothing done for the millions of children, whose only training in manner, in morals, in hygienic habits, in patriotism, in appreciation of the true and the beautiful in nature, in arts, in literature, comes in the few short years spent in the elementary schools."—M. E. Chamberlain.

I will trade 320 acres of excellent and joining 1000 acres exhibition farm near Calgary, Alberta and one section of land near Billings, Montana (within range of the Huntley irrigation project) for lands in the vicinity of Courtenay. All land mentioned unimproved. Paul Skjerseth