

MANUAL TRAINING.

The Contemplated Adoption of the System in the Omaha High School.

The General Outlines of the Project and its Anticipated Benefits.

At the Monday evening session of the school board, a resolution was introduced by Mr. Copeland, relative to the matter of taking steps to introduce the system of manual-labor training into the high school.

"It is our idea," said Mr. Copeland in response to a question, "to introduce a system into the high school curriculum very similar to the one now in vogue at the St. Louis training school.

At Boston, too, the matter is now being agitated by the school board, and it is quite probable that the system of manual training will be adopted. In fact, the feeling in favor of the manual training school is spreading over the entire country, and bids fair to become an established feature of the American educational system.

"What is your idea with reference to the scale upon which the manual training school ought to be opened here?" To start with, I think it would be better, perhaps, to have only a wood-shop with proper tools for doing general carpenter work, and perhaps a turning lathe or two.

"At present, as the system developed, we might admit eighth-grade and seventh-grade scholars. In the start, however, we ought to confine the course strictly to the High School."

"What are some of the immediate benefits which you expect to result from the adoption of the system?" "First and foremost, I believe that it will assist very largely in preventing a falling off in attendance, and in thwarting that inclination on the part of some of the boys to drop out as they advance from class to class.

"And again, there is a special need of a system of fitting the boys of Omaha for various mechanical pursuits. As matters are now, it is almost impossible for a boy to get a chance to learn a valuable trade, as an apprentice, unless, perhaps, he becomes a 'helper,' or does something of that sort.

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Discussing Ways and Means of Municipal Reform.

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