

In diametrical opposition to Mr. Langton's view of higher education was that of President Falconer. "In the University," said that gentleman, "we do not intend to turn out a man simply as a tradesman. We do not merely intend to turn out a man who can earn his living, as a doctor, but in turning out a medical man our idea is that he is an educated medical man who understands the meaning of his profession and comes out with a scientific spirit . . . Besides the technical side of a profession there is the human side, and you cannot understand your own profession unless you have a conception of the breadth of humanity and of human life."

President Falconer made no reference in his remarks to compulsory education. They have long passed that stage at Toronto University. In some subjects only of the general course, and in almost none of those in the honor courses, is even the attendance of the student enforced. Strange paradox as it may seem, the greater the freedom accorded a body of students, enrolled in a faculty where the course of study is attractive, the higher becomes the educational ideal of that faculty.

It apparently is not the intention of those representatives of Canadian builders' exchanges who met in convention in Toronto on Labor Day last to allow the project of founding a national organization of builders to die fruitless. Under date of September 17, circular letters, enclosing copies of the official minutes of the Labor Day meeting, were addressed to every executive officer of every exchange in Canada. Accompanying these went requests to elect a delegate for the executive council. The exchanges actually represented at Toronto on September 1 were Winnipeg, London, Hamilton, Toronto and Montreal, and the delegates present, according to the provisional constitution, named one representative executive officer on the council for each exchange present, one vice-president for each of the provinces represented—Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec.

In a recent communication from the secretary, Mr. J. H. Lauer, we are informed that a lack of enthusiasm has thus far marked the attitude which the various exchanges have adopted toward this project. One can well conceive one or two reasons for this. In the first place lethargy prevails in the building trade in all parts of the country and, strange as it may seem, it is at just such a time when leisure might be found for considering a project of this nature, that the tendency to ignore it becomes most pronounced. But apart from this fact it must be admitted that the project was conceived in too much secrecy and brought forth with the knowledge of comparatively few of the members of our builders' exchanges. A project of such importance deserved a natal day of much greater brilliancy than that actually accorded it. The project is a vast one, and a "Canadian National Association of Builders" should be a powerful factor in the rapidly increasing building activity of this country. It cannot be too strongly urged upon the various exchanges to make a strong and united effort to nourish the infant organization, whose demise would put

a serious check upon future endeavors to make our various builders' exchanges a harmonious whole.

It is proposed in England to establish a "Technical Bureau," for the benefit of architects and builders, where information can be obtained on such matters as building materials, appliances, new methods of construction, etc., and an advisory committee has been appointed to consider the project.

Apart from the examination of individual manufacturers' goods, reports will be kept dealing with materials as a class, in which comparisons (denoting strength, durability, and applicability) will be made with different materials designed to serve the same purpose.

The results of these investigations and testings will constitute the Bureau reports, to be filed at the offices, copies or requisite extracts being supplied on application to subscribers only.

Experts will be retained to advise on constructional and technical subjects and on legal and such other matters as affect architectural practice. Answers to inquiries will be free; but where much correspondence and research are involved a subscriber would have the benefit of certain arrangements to be made with the legal and technical experts.

The main purpose would be to centralize information regarding stone, brick, tiles, slates, lime, cement, etc., in the various localities, throughout the country, and to acquire a standard collection of samples. Subscribers on application to be informed of the accessibility of the various materials in any required locality. In the case of stone, its nature and color, for what particular building uses it is most adaptable, together with its different quarries and the approximate cost on rail or site. The nature, color, and description of the bricks, tiles, slates, etc., obtainable in each locality, with their approximate cost on rail or site. Ordnance and railway maps will be used for defining localities, and will be at the disposal of subscribers for reference. A list of buildings in which the materials in question have been used will be provided. Copies of the building by-laws in force in each town and locality will be kept in the library.

Subscribers will be provided gratis with a reference book, containing directions for using the Bureau to the best advantage. It will be in the form of a diary for architects, with useful information and data prepared specially for the Bureau. It is added that information will be supplied through the post, and special regard will be paid to the convenience of those architects making inquiries by letter. The Bureau, we are informed, has already over 500 subscribers amongst architects all over the country.

The usefulness of such a Bureau requires no demonstration, particularly in view of the fact that so many new materials and building devices are continually seeking a market and require to have their merits attested by an authority less biased than is the general run of manufacturer's or inventor's announcements.