

THE LEGISLATURE AND THE UNIVERSITY GRANTS.

BY PROFESSOR YOUNG.

THE session of the Ontario Legislature, just brought to a close, deserves to be remembered favorably because of the grant to the University of Toronto (including the School of Practical Science) and to the School of Mines at Kingston. These subsidies, and others of a similar kind, ought to have been voted years ago, for, on the old principle that ability to get wealth (*i.e.*, character) is of far more account than wealth itself, education, whether theoretical or practical, technical or humanizing, is surely of greater importance than even railways, good roads, and pulpwood concessions, or the thousand and one other things that our legislators show so much enthusiasm and spend so much time over.

To most people it will appear reasonable, apart altogether from the Alumni Association's action, that the University of Toronto should have received the larger share of the legislative grant. It has always been recognized as the child of the State, hence the State is under obligation to it well provided for, not only for the present, but for all time to come. The better equipped it is for the work it has to do in its several faculties, the greater stimulus will it give to the other universities of this and other provinces.

While it has been well treated, taking all the circumstances into account, there is absolutely no reason why any of its faculties or any of its graduates should begrudge the twenty-two thousand dollars a year to be bestowed upon the School of Mines during the next five years. It is high time that Toronto people generally, and particularly men

holding places of authority in the University of Toronto, should cease to think and to assert that all is lost to Toronto, and the University bearing its name, which is given to another city of the province and to another school.

The School of Mines may be a private venture, or it may be more or less an integral part of Queen's University. It is meeting the needs of that section of the country in which it is situated; therefore the Legislature does well to aid it generously. When the five years have expired, it is to be hoped that it will so well have fulfilled the expectations of its friends and supporters that the grant will be increased, and will be made permanent.

Indirectly, of course, Queen's University will be benefited by this new policy of the Government and the Legislature. But the same sort of benefit has accrued, and will accrue, to the University of Toronto from the grants made to the School of Practical Science. All true friends of technical education, and of the higher education in general, will rejoice to see even indirect aid given to strengthen a University which has given such striking proof of its right, not only to live, but to mould the minds and hearts of men as Queen's has given.

The Honorable the Premier, belonging as he does to the Church which till recently has exercised at least nominal control over Queen's University, was perhaps placed in a somewhat difficult position in the matter of making a grant to that University itself. If he continues in power, one may hope that he will be able to satisfy himself that Queen's is, in fact as in name, non-