

THE JOURNAL
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Board of Arts and Manufactures
FOR ONTARIO.

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CANADA — HER EDUCATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL FUTURE.

On the day of our present issue, three of the hitherto separate Provinces of British North America enter upon a new era of their existence—the proclamation of *Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria* declaring, in the following words, “that on and after the first day of July, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven, the Provinces of *Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick* shall form and be one Dominion, under the name of *Canada*,” in accordance with the terms of an Act of the Imperial Parliament, passed and assented to on the 29th March, 1867, in answer to the expressed wishes of the several Legislatures of the Colonies United.

What the future of this Dominion will be, no one can with any degree of certainty foretell; we cannot, however, but augur for it a career of prosperity hitherto unknown. The abolition of inter-colonial custom-houses and adverse tariffs, and a closer and more constant political, commercial, manufacturing and social intercourse, and interests hereinafter in common, cannot but—with judicious management—result in much good to the peoples united. What will be the policies of the Confederate and Local Governments and Legislatures in respect to the technical education of the industrial classes, is what now more immediately concerns us. Hitherto, the encouragement and support afforded in this respect has been on the infinitesimal principle, and the results have, undoubtedly, been correspondingly unsatisfactory. For the mechanical and engineering classes next to nothing has been done in Canada. For a few years each of the Mechanics’ Institutes received an annual legislative grant of \$200, which was paid them irrespective of numbers, organization, or work being done; and without any conditions as to how that small amount should be expended, so as to produce the most good to those for whose benefit it was avowedly intended. Eight years ago this trifling assistance was withheld, and many of these Institutions in consequence ceased to exist, and since that time the only legislative grant hav-

ing a special reference to the arts and manufactures of the Province, has been the sum of \$4,000 per annum, equally divided between the Boards of Arts and Manufactures for Upper and Lower Canada. This grant of \$2,000 to each Board, has been the whole amount available wherewith to establish free technical libraries of reference; to publish lectures and useful information, and establish schools or colleges for mechanics, and schools of design for females; to import and test new and useful machines and models of machines, &c., &c., as contemplated by the statute; and out of which also to pay rent, salaries and office expenses.

In contrast with this *mistaken* economy, let us notice what has been done for agriculture and the professions—the former of which we unhesitatingly admit to be the main stay and dependence of the country; the latter *necessary*, but not of so much importance to our material prosperity as the manufacturing or industrial arts.

We quote from the public accounts, for the year ending June 30th, 1864, not having the later returns before us, by which it appears that aid had been afforded the two interests referred to, to the following extent:—

Agricultural Associations	\$108,419 33
Colleges	29,800 00
Medical Schools and Scientific Institut's	5,850 00
U. C. Grammar Schools, over and above fees and local income.....	54,987 00
Superior Education, L. C.....	67,260 00

Here we have a total legislative aid for the year of \$108,419 33 for agriculture, and \$157,847 for professional or college education—together \$266,266 33. The Colleges of U. C. have also other sources of income amounting to some \$120,000, and the Colleges of L. C. we know not how much, and have no means within reach of ascertaining; but putting it at the same as for Upper Canada, the whole income available for instruction in agriculture and the professions has been upwards of half a million dollars per annum, as against \$4,000 for Arts and Manufactures.

These items of expenditure do not include cost of Normal and Common Schools, of either Upper or Lower Canada, which afford general instruction to all classes, but *little* that is adapted especially to prepare the pupils for industrial pursuits. We ask, is this either politic or just towards so important an interest in the country? Is it right that so large a share of the public revenues of the Province, towards which all classes alike contribute, should be appropriated in so one-sided a manner, for the special benefit of the agricultural and professional classes; and that the large and important class of artisans and manufacturers should