

State Legislature in a statute which entrusts the management of "Extension" work to the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York; and that it has been prominently inserted in the announcements of the University of Chicago by President Harper, who is himself one of the best known University men in America, and who has made "Extension" work one of the three great departments of the University's operations. In view of the wide spread and long-continued use of the term "University Extension" among University men, its adoption by the promoters of the Canadian movement looking to the higher education of those who cannot attend any University may be surely condoned.

It is not denied, in THE VARSITY article or elsewhere, that the University Extension experiment has been in England a great success. You say, indeed, that it has there "failed to reach the laboring classes which it set out to benefit," but your statement is misleading in each of its parts. Speaking from a wide acquaintance with the literature of the Extension movement, I have no hesitation in saying (1) that it was not started with the special purpose of benefiting the laboring classes, and (2) that it has not failed to benefit them. The latest account that I have seen of the work done in England is the pamphlet lately issued by Dr. Roberts, secretary of the "London Society for the Extension of University Teaching," who has done more for the movement and knows more about its results than any other person, and his report shows conclusively that Extension work is popular with workingmen, many of whom make great personal sacrifices to share in its benefits. True, they cannot afford to pay much for the privilege, but they may henceforth be able to enjoy it at less cost to themselves in view of the partial endowment of the movement out of the liquor license compensation fund. And in connection with this fund permit me to point out that your statement respecting it is misleading. Heretofore no "Government funds" of any kind or from any source have been available in support of the scheme. It has achieved its phenomenal success without such support, and possibly the new endowment may prove a barrier rather than a help.

You make much of the difference between the people of England and the people of Canada in respect of opportunities for acquiring a University education, and I do not allege that you are overstating the case. University education is cheaper here than it is there, and I think it is relatively also more influential in diffusing culture among the people. But that proves nothing in the way of showing that the work of "University Extension" is not just as necessary here as it is there. The question is not whether the proportion of people not reached by University influences is as large here as it is in England, but whether there is here any large mass of the community who would like to enjoy the higher culture but cannot go to a University for the purpose. This is a simple question of fact about which each must form his own opinion. You will at least admit that I have had good opportunities of getting at the truth in the matter, and I am quite confident that we have in abundance in Canada earnest men and women who cannot possibly attend a University, but strongly desire to take systematic courses in literature, history, politics, philosophy, science, and art. Whether they are willing to pay liberally enough to get what they want can be determined only by experiment, but do not condemn the experiment as "farcical." The motives of those who are making it are, at all events, disinterested. Theirs will be a labor of love, for they cannot expect any adequate remuneration.

As to scarcity of teachers, about which much was said at the recent conference, it is useless to indulge in predictions either way. If the demand arises the supply will be forthcoming. Fortunately it will not be necessary to depend on the Universities for that supply when it is wanted. In England a body of teachers, some of them more eminent in their special lines than any that fill Uni-

versity chairs, has been developed, and we have outside of the Universities in Canada many who are just as skilful in the work of imparting instruction as those engaged in academical work. The number may be indefinitely increased as the demand for their services grows.

Your remark about mechanics' institutes serves, at least, this useful purpose, that it enables me to call attention to an immense advantage which Extension workers in Ontario have to start with. We have not only mechanics' institutes, but municipal free libraries, and we have a large number of Young Men's Christian Associations. It will, no doubt, be the policy of the Association to utilize these institutions as "local centres." Why not? Work has for some years been carried on in connection with them, and all that remains for the Association to do is to encourage that work by granting it such recognition as is afforded by applying an examination test, and granting a certificate based on the result.

WM. HOUSTON.

Toronto, Nov. 28, 1891.

[In our editorial on University Extension we distinctly expressed ourselves as being in entire sympathy with the objects for which "The Canadian Association for the Extension of University Teaching" was formed, and we cannot explain Mr. Houston's misapprehension of our position. It may be found necessary to return to the subject at some time in the future.—ED.]

Mr. Arthur H. Sinclair, of the Political Science Class of '90, has contributed a useful article to the October number of the *Quarterly Journal of Economics* on the Toronto Street Railway. In it will be found a concise and interesting historical account of street railways in this city. One learns that the Street Railway was introduced here in 1861; that a Company was granted a practical monopoly of the concern for thirty years; that the Company agreed to keep the street in repair between the rails and for eighteen inches beyond the rails on each side; to pay the city \$5 for each car in operation together with ordinary taxes; and that the city reserved to themselves the right to assume the plant of the Street Railway at an arbitration valuation in the year 1891. There is a careful and impartial statement of how this arrangement worked. The difficulties that arose are noted though any attempt at theorizing about them is carefully avoided. A short account is given of the arbitration which decided what amount the city should pay for the plant when they assumed it this summer. The city retained the management of the road only a few months when it was handed over to a new Company. The conditions on which the new Company obtained the monopoly are more advantageous to the city. Among these were provisions stipulating that the city must keep the road-bed in repair for which the Company are required to pay \$800 per mile; that the Company shall heat their cars; that they shall not require their servants to work more than ten hours a day; that no Sunday cars shall be run without a plebescite; that tickets shall be five cents each, six for twenty-five cents, and twenty-five for one dollar; and in addition to this the Company are required to supply tickets for use between 5.30 a.m. and 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. at eight for twenty-five cents, with school children's tickets at ten for twenty-five cents. It is a creditable piece of work and reflects credit on the author, who has already written acceptably on the general subject of municipal monopolies.

Lippincott's for December has a decidedly Southern flavor. The novel, "A Fair Blockade Breaker," by T. C. DeLeon, presents a series of brilliant pictures of fair women and brave men who, in spite of fate, are happy ever after in the good old style. Articles on Negro superstitions and literature in the South since the war maintain the Southern tone which is rendered a harmony by the introduction of a "poor white" sketch, called "A Macasin among the Hobbys."