

During the Session of Parliament for the year 1847, the Toronto Mechanics' Institute, through its City Representatives—the late Hon. Henry Sherwood, and W. H. Boulton, Esq.,—made application for and obtained for itself, and each of its sister Institutes, an annual grant of \$200, which was continued up to the year 1859, when all these grants were withdrawn.

In the year 1857, the late Board of Arts and Manufactures were established, by Act of Parliament; and in which provision was made for the affiliation therewith of the several Institutes receiving Legislative assistance. On the withdrawal of the grants to the Institutes, their connection with the Board was but little more than nominal. The Board, however, by the publication of its Monthly Journal, its free Library of reference, its annual examination of pupils of Institute Classes, and by any other available means, continued to render all the aid possible to the Institutes.

In January, 1868, it was made known to the Board, that no further grants would be made for its sustenance, but that its Library would be removed to the Parliament Buildings, Toronto, where it would still remain open to the public for reference. At the close of the last meeting of the Board, the representatives of the several Institutes organized an "Association of Mechanics' Institutes of Ontario," which was subsequently recognized in the Agricultural and Arts Statute, and its functions described in its printed Constitution, and the proceedings of its last Meeting.

Before finally dissolving, the Board of Arts and Manufactures considered the Act introduced in the Legislature by the Hon. the Commissioner of Agriculture and Public Works, which, amongst other things, provided to grant aid to the Mechanics' Institutes to the extent of one dollar for every dollar subscribed, up to a maximum of two hundred dollars, to assist in Evening Class instruction; and appointed a Committee to wait upon the Commissioner, the Hon. John Carling, to represent to him that the aid proposed should also extend to the recognition of the purchase of Technical Works for their Libraries. This was at once acceded to by the Commissioner, and provided in the Statute.

By an amendment of the late Session, these provisions of the bill were still further extended, by recognizing not only the purchase of Technical Works, but of Works on general Literature, other than fiction. These liberal enactments have imparted new life into some of the previously languishing Institutions, enabling them more successfully to pursue their laudable objects.

The Institutes that availed themselves of the provisions of the Act, and the amounts received by them, for the year 1868, were as follows:—

Chatham	\$100 00
Paris	100 00
Toronto	200 00
Bomanville	140 00
Galt	50 00
Streetsville	80 00

Oshawa	\$180 00
Hamilton	100 00
Peterboro'	200 00
Dundas	200 00
Whitby	75 00
Strathroy	75 00
Guelph	100 00

Total\$1,610 00

The claims already made by Institutes under the Act, for the present year, to this date, are:—

Paris	\$150 00
Seaforth	200 00
Toronto	200 00
Schomberg	30 00
Meaford	107 19
Berlin	103 48
Hamilton	200 00
Bowmanville	125 00
Galt	100 00
Merrickville	63 00
Dundas	200 00
Brantford	100 00
Oshawa	200 00
Newmarket	30 00
Whitby	150 00
Streetsville	197 00
Woodstock	200 00

Total.....\$2,356 07

The greater number of these Institutes have complied with the requirements of the Act, in remitting to your Treasurer the five per cent. of the grants received; and the others will, no doubt, comply on being reminded of what the law requires.

During the past year your Secretary has forwarded to the several Institutes copies of a catalogue of technical books, prepared for their use; also copies of other available catalogues, to assist them in the selection of books; and also informed the Institutes, by circular, that he had made arrangements for the supply of the Industrial Works published by H. C. Baird, of Philadelphia, at a reduction of 33½ per cent. off the selling prices; for the Educational Department books at 10 per cent. reduction from its catalogue prices; and for the supply of other English and American books at 20 per cent. of the usual prices.

Since the organization of your Committee, your Secretary has selected and forwarded to eight Institutes thirty-eight invoices of books, a large proportion of which were on practical and useful subjects, amounting in value:—For the

Paris Mechanics' Institute	\$198 29
Strathroy	24 88
Streetsville	121 23
Whitby	44 70
Ayr	41 68
Dundas	34 24
Meaford	214 98
Merrickville	32 86

Your Committee have made arrangements with the publishers for the supply of the Ameri-