

generally is this necessity recognized that the tendency to complain of the competition of prison products with those of free labor is manifested only on rare occasions.

There still comes, however, from some quarters a demand for a restriction of prison industries. It has been suggested that convicts should work on farms or gardens attached to the institution in which they are confined. A kindred proposal is that convict labor should be devoted to the production of commodities for State use. But both these methods of supplying convicts with work mean competition with free labor. The competition may be with laborers that are not organized into a union but it is bound to exist. And more than this all such limitations on the choice of prison industries are liable to involve the difficulty of putting men at work that will afford training of no value when freedom has been restored. They also offend the principle that work must be congenial to the wishes and temperment of the man who is to engage in it. Prison industries must be varied and must afford the convict experience that will enable him to earn an honest livelihood. The solution of the problem does not lie in the direction of restriction. In time it will be recognized that the most important factor in the situation is the man undergoing penal servitude. It is his reformation that is desired. That this may be accomplished there must be a variety of judiciously chosen industries in which he can work. The competition to which the free laborer is subjected by the population of our prisons is not severe and to convert the convict into a capable producing unit is the best way to lighten any burden that he creates.

MANUAL TRAINING.

GERMANY has for some years maintained a system of Industrial Schools for the training of men who intend entering industrial life or going into any line of manual work that requires a high degree of skill. To the influence of these schools in turning out men acquainted with the mechanical and technical side of industrial processes is attributed the recent industrial development of that country.

In the matter of manual training Canada is in the experimental stage. Few regular Industrial Schools have been opened and the Technical Departments attached to primary schools in certain cities appear to be attended only by pupils whose main work lies in other lines. At Brantford and Stratford Manual Training Schools are maintained and in thirty-five other instances provision is made for technical instruction. In the special departments of primary schools work is combined with general studies. In the thorough-going Industrial School the motive is distinctly utilitarian, preparation for industrial service being the end in view.

Of the results of our experiments with manual training it is yet early to speak. They have not become a factor in the general industrial situation. There can be no doubt, however, that in time they will become more obvious and more generally appreciated. If we are to be industrially successful skilled workmen are necessary. There can be no better way of developing a strong,