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**MANUAL TRAINING.\***

By PROF. BOVEY, MCGILL UNIVERSITY.

At the Labor Congress recently held in Montreal, strong opposition was made to the introduction of manual training into schools by certain of the workmen, who argued that the effect would be to turn out botched mechanics. Even setting aside the doubt as to whether this result has not been already attained without any aid from the schools, I would like to point out that this is not the main question at issue. The primary object of the introduction of manual training is to obtain a *mental* development, which can often be produced in no other way, although personally I am prepared to go further, and maintain that far from making an unskilled mechanic, manual training, if properly conducted, must lay the best foundation for a high development of mechanical skill. Let us consider some of the qualities called forth by this kind of education.

"The students draw pictures of things, and then fashion them into things at the forge, the bench, and the turning lathe, not mainly that they may enter machine shops, and with greater facility make similar things, but that they may become stronger intellectually and morally; that they may attain a wider range of mental vision, a more varied power of expression; and so be better able to solve the problem of life when they shall enter upon the stage of practical activity."

\* A paper read before the Teachers' Convention in October, 1889.