

### TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

This is a branch of the great movement of our day for comprehensive culture, which has a special interest for this periodical. The dissemination of sound views on art—and we would use that term (for the nonce, at least) in its widest sense—can only be secured when the fullest provision for artistic training has been made in every province of the Dominion. In that respect a good deal still remains unaccomplished and even unattempted. But the same statement is applicable to countries that claim to be much more advanced than Canada is in the domain of art. Instead of eternally complaining of apathy on the part of the public and lack of enterprise on the part of those to whom the public looks for example, we would rather take heart of hope from the signs not only of aspiration, but of fruitful effort, which a candid survey of the whole ground reveals to the earnest enquirer. In the higher levels of art—painting, sculpture, architecture and engraving—it cannot be doubted that fair progress has been achieved during the last quarter of a century. The foundation, by the Marquis of Lorne and H. R. H. the Princess Louise, of the Royal Canadian Academy, and the institution, under the same illustrious auspices, of the National Art Gallery, may be mentioned among the indications of that progress. Then we can point to our own Art Association, to that of Ottawa, to that of Hamilton, to the Ontario Society of Artists, and to the art schools in operation in all our leading centres of enlightenment, from Halifax to Victoria. On some future occasion we shall be glad to lay before our readers some of the results that have attended the working of these societies and schools. Though music does not come within the scope of these remarks (which embrace mainly the pictorial, plastic and structural arts), it is impossible, after the visit of Madame Albani, to avoid a word of exultation on that head also. Toronto, with its College of Music, has led the way in a new departure, and we feel assured that the other centres of musical cultivation will not fail to follow in the same direction.

In the domain of what is called technical education, the Council of Arts and Manufactures of this province has been active ever since the secretaryship of Col. Chamberlin. For what Mr. S. C. Stevenson has done for the fostering of the artistic spirit among the mechanical classes we cannot be too grateful. The impulse given by his schools has, we believe, been farther reaching in its effects than those who have not given attention to the subject would be likely to imagine. The Society of Decorative Art of Montreal is especially worthy of mention as the offspring of an endeavour to encourage art work in the household and to give profitable employment to the ladies, who might otherwise find no market for really good work. Under the influence of the Art Association and the schools conducted under Mr. Stevenson's direction, considerable advance has been attained throughout the province, both in the higher and humbler branches of art training. The art gallery (based on the bequest of the late B. Gibb, Esq.), is in the custody of the Art Association, and art classes, conducted successively by Mr. R. Harris, R.C.A., and Mr. Wm. Brymner, R.C.A., form a valuable adjunct of the institution. The private classes of Mr. W. W. Raphael, R.C.A., and other artists (including ladies) are attended by a considerable number of

students. In New Brunswick and Nova Scotia a good beginning has been made in art education. The Owens Art Institution of St. John, which comprises a gallery and art school, was, as the name implies, founded and largely endowed by the late John Owens, Esq. It is pleasant to know that Manitoba also has its art association, with classes in which instruction is given by a full and qualified staff of teachers. It is in Ontario, however, that the art spirit is most pervasive and productive. Not only Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, Ottawa and London, but several of the smaller towns, are well equipped with the means for acquiring at least something more than the rudiments of art knowledge.

But it is not so much with painting, sculpture, sketching, etc. (gladly though we welcome all evidences of progress in connection therewith), that the interests of the Dominion are chiefly concerned. What we need above all are institutions where the very best training in every branch of industrial art may be brought within reach of every young aspirant after excellence. Until such provision—on the most bountiful scale as to apparatus and professors—is at the disposal of our artisans (who should be taught to regard that name as one of high significance and honour), we must resign ourselves to be left behind our neighbours in the march of progress. It is with satisfaction, therefore, that we see by a report just issued that Ontario has determined to establish a seat of technical education which shall have no superior on this continent. The Report is full of gathered information as to the equipment and working of the schools of technology, both general and special, of the United States. We hope to have something to say of its contents in a future issue. Meanwhile, we congratulate the Minister of Education on his enlightened policy, which, we trust, will not lack imitation in the other provinces of the Dominion.

### OUR PHOSPHATE MINES.

One of the spurs which the riders of the annexation hobby have been using is that if Canada were taken over by the United States our manifold resources would be more expeditiously and profitably developed. Possibly they would. But would Canadians get their fair share of the fruits of that development? We fear that we would be like the sheep that are fleeced, and the bees, whose gathered sweets are used, not for their own benefit, but for that of others. Nevertheless, it would be well if the implied reproach of the oft repeated promise were removed by greater effort on the part of Canadians to turn to account the blessings with which nature has favoured them. It is, unhappily, true that some of the most bounteous sources of wealth in the Dominion have, through lack of enterprise, been left comparatively unproductive. This disregard, on the part of Canadian capitalists, of some of our richest stores of native wealth, is acknowledged, in the chapter on phosphates, in the last Report of the Minister of Agriculture. First a falling-off—slight, it is true, but still real—is noted in the shipments from this port and Ontario, which is attributed to the difficulty of transportation from the mines. This plea, moreover, is justified by the fact that, whereas the grand total exported and consumed at home was only 17,446 tons, the entire output for 1888 was as high as 23,290 tons, the difference constituting the quantity left over

Whatever convenience the proposed Windmill Point-St. Helen's Island bridge scheme would, if carried out, be to some of our citizens, it would certainly gravely embarrass the business that depends on the wharfrage between the Point and the high elevator. Whether the advantage to local traffic from shore to shore would be great enough to compensate for the serious loss that several interests would sustain by the sacrifice of much needed wharfrage it was for the Council to consider before giving its sanction to the proposal.

The prospects of peace in Europe seem more assured than they have been for years. Sir Robert Morier entertained the Czar; M. Herbet has been dining the young Kaiser, and now those two potentates are about to have a friendly meeting a few months hence. As long as England, Russia, Germany and France are on fairly good terms, no rupture is likely to occur. Nevertheless, South-eastern Europe is still unsettled. Austria and Russia are intriguing for predominance in Serbia, Bulgaria and Roumania; Italy is said to have designs in the south of the peninsula, while the abdication of Milan and the threatened return of Queen Natalie further complicate the situation.

The gold rushes to California and Victoria in 1849 and 1851 have been recalled by the reported discovery of rich gold fields in Northern Mexico. Peninsular California is, of course, simply a continuation of the American state of that name, and has long been known to contain much precious metal. Nothing so surprising as the finds reported had, however, been suspected hitherto, though, of course, there are professors who knew all about it. What the upshot of it all will be it would be rash to say, but of one thing we may be sure—of the thousands who are now betaking themselves in the excitement of wildest hope to the new Eldorado only a lucky few will find it better than a wild goose chase.

A somewhat heated discussion arose in the Quebec Assembly in connection with the investigation of certain charges brought in *L'Electeur* against the Ross-Taillon Government. Two contractors, it was asserted, had paid \$50,000 each just before the last elections, in order, it was said, to secure a settlement of their personal claims, amounting, in each case, to double that sum. The Hon. Mr. Taillon denied the statement as a base calumny and asked for a committee of investigation. On the refusal of Mr. Pacaud, of *L'Electeur*, to answer certain questions put by the committee, the controversy reached a crisis. In the vote on the request for an order to compel him to do so, several Ministerialists—Messrs. Cameron, Lareau, Murphy, Lemieux, Champagne—voted with the minority.

### THE KAY SALE OF PICTURES.

We would again direct the attention of lovers of the fine arts to the announcement by Messrs. W. Scott & Son, of the sale, on the 30th inst., of Mr. W. F. Kay's collection of pictures and statuary by some of the great modern masters of the British and foreign schools. The pictures comprise works by some of the most noted oil painters and water-colourists of recent generations, such as Louis Haghe, J. Gerard, Aaron Penley, Zimmermann, John Pettie, R.A., Birket Foster, W. B. Leader, A.R.A., etc. The statuary has the guarantee of names like Benzoni, Connelly and Marshall Wood. Such an opportunity of securing masterpieces in various styles of art does not often present itself in Montreal, and art lovers ought not to let it pass unused. The collection will be on view during the day previous to the sale in the gallery of the Art Association and catalogues may be obtained by applying to Messrs. Scott & Co., who will also give permission to inspect the collection free of charge. We are assured that this is, without exception, the most important picture sale ever held in Canada, and we would respectfully advise our readers to bear it in mind.