

our country, at least, received any recognition proportionate to its importance in the thought and activity of the age—I mean social science.

When we study the history of universities, and consider the forms of knowledge which at successive periods have chiefly engrossed university attention, we find this rule—that in proportion as a subject assumes prominence in the thought of the age outside the schools, in just such proportion does it, *after some delay*, take prominence in the curricula of the schools. This is true of the scholastic philosophy, for to it the great ancient universities largely owe their birth. This is true of the great revival of that classical learning which so long formed the chief foundation of college curricula. It did not begin in the schools—neither did the great development, in later times, of physical science, or the recent revival in the study of English classics. These all first assumed prominence in thought outside the university, and were afterwards there adopted.

At the present time, if one may judge from the signs that lie about him, it would appear that the department of social science is reaching such a prominence in thought outside of universities, that its introduction as a subject of study into their walls cannot be much longer delayed. In the widespread and general interest which is being taken in the economic problems of the age, in strikes, trades unions and tariffs, in the history of our political institutions, in the history of our laws, in the codification of the laws, in all current political events and social questions, and in the wideness with which these questions are discussed, from their practical, their scientific, their philosophical aspects, one sees the forerunner of the introduction into the college curriculum, whether rightly or wrongly I do not say, at any rate the introduction of a department of social science; and, looking at the matter from a simple business standpoint, I have no doubt that whatever institution in Ontario first supplies this want by founding and maintaining a properly equipped department of social science, will make a tremendous advance, and will attract to itself a large body of students. It is what is required.