

And yet there is room for other similar agencies; not room only, but a demand for them, and of these agencies for which there is a wide and inviting field of usefulness is that class of schools of which this Technical School, as far as this Province is concerned, is by far the most important.

Beginnings of Industrial Education.*

We first learn of technical or industrial education on this continent in 1640. In that year the State of Massachusetts provided for technical education, for instruction concerning the spinning of yarn, for example.

The earliest form of Manual Training Schools were spinning schools. In 1721 £300 was set apart for carrying on instruction in spinning. The then English law forbade the importation of machinery and the establishment of factories in the colonies. This was the humble beginning of industrial education in the United States. Visit almost any large city now in the United States and you will find Technical Schools or Colleges, which in point of equipment, curriculum, or teaching staff, are alike admirable.

I may well say a word about one of the most important of them, viz., the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This College, founded in 1865, has about 1,200 students. It has 175 teachers and lecturers, and 13 distinct courses of study; there are 24 teachers, 5 of them being full professors, in chemistry alone. The *alumni* number about 2,500. It has 22 separate laboratories. The best possible provision is made for food analysis, water analysis, dyeing, bleaching, etc. In 1877 Manual Training became a part of the scheme of the Institute.

It must be remembered that Cornell University, which is in possession of invested funds to the amount of nearly \$7,000,000, is largely a Technical School, since nearly one-half of its students take technical courses.

* "Technical Instruction" is defined as "instruction in the principles of science and art applicable to industries, and in the application of special branches of science and art to specific industries or employments."