

## The Technical School and The Advantages It Holds Out

Interesting Paper Read by W. S. Fisher before Fort-nightly Club.

### WHAT IS BEING DONE IN OTHER PLACES

About Ninety per cent. of Total School Attendance Must Leave at an Early Age to become Wage Earners.

The following interesting paper was read before the Fortnightly Club on January 5th, 1914, by W. S. Fisher. "What is the greatest asset a nation can have? Certainly its people and to the degree that they are intelligent, enlightened, moral and industrious, will the country progress along lines that will make for its permanent prosperity and as a civilizing power in the world?"

We hear in these days a great deal about the doctrine of efficiency and the reason of this must be because such a lack of it exists on every hand. On all sides we find a lamentable want of thoroughness and thrift and a consequent great waste of human energy and this notwithstanding the tremendous efforts that are being put forth in every direction along educational lines.

If the members of this club were asked to express in one word what they considered the most desirable thing in order to make people happy and the country prosperous, education would probably answer, education, though some would insist say, Christianity. Those not uttering the latter, would doubtless include it as one of the principal elements under the general term education.

I feel, therefore, that it is safe to say we all agree that education, for man or woman, boy or girl, is one of the most important things in life, such an education as will best fit us to do our part in life effectively; to make the most of ourselves and to help make the world a better place in which to live. On the exact or particular details of education we may not all see eye to eye, but on the general principles, there can be no doubt. Our public schools, including the finishing courses in the high schools and leading on to the higher classical, commercial or technical institutions, leave very little to be desired for those who are in a position to avail themselves of its fullest advantages. The percentage of this class, however, is very small and leaves out of count that larger number approximately ninety per cent. of the total school attendance, who are compelled to leave school at a very early age in order to assist in the maintenance of the home.

In order to provide for this large class, who are debarred from securing the advantage of the full school course, and thus to better equip themselves for the struggle of life, educationalists and all others interested in the subject the world over have been for years endeavoring to find a method whereby this lack can be made up and a chance given to every ambitious boy or girl to continue their studies and thus afford an equal opportunity to all, no matter in what station of life they may happen to have been born.

In addition to this, there is the growing need of special training along trade and technical lines to make up for the part played by the old apprenticeship system, by which youths, formerly employed in various mechanical trades, secured a general and thorough grounding in their special lines. The change, as we all know, has been brought about by the modern methods, which manufacturers generally have found it necessary to adopt in consequence of the introduction of labor-saving machinery and the greatly increased competition resulting, which has brought about specialization in production, so that the average workman has become more or less part of the machinery and less a master of the details of his trade. At the same time, an even greater degree of skill and a higher intelligence is now necessary in order to enable the workman to handle his work according to the new methods and to take the higher positions available to the ambitious man.

Need for Trained Workers. Today, as never before, employers in all lines are finding it more difficult to secure, whether in factory, office, warehouse or store, young men with the training, capacity and ambition requisite for their advancement. It is a curious thing, but a well-known fact that it is so much easier to fill the minor positions, already overcrowded, than the more important and lucrative ones, that stand ready waiting for the fellow of knowledge and ability.

I am reminded of a remark made by Sir Thomas Shaughnessy at a C. P. R. dinner a few months ago, in which he stated that the greatest anxiety felt by those now controlling the destinies of that great corporation was to find men capable of filling the higher positions of responsibility, which from time to time become vacant and thus ensure the successful carrying on of the work.

This may have seemed a bit pessimistic, as experience has taught us that there is always someone coming along fitted for the greater task, although, at times, it may be difficult to find him. Perhaps, on the whole, it is a wise ordering of Providence that the number of those who rise above the average is comparatively small, and one might almost argue from this that it is better to let those take their course, and that those of superior intelligence and industry will always come to the front and secure the reward due them.

While this may be true to an extent, there is no doubt that a higher general knowledge, intelligence and skill will add greatly to the sum of human happiness and prosperity. Admitting the need, therefore, let us discuss what can best be done to meet it in a practical way, so that the children of the wage earner and others

who have been debarred, for any reason, from securing a better education, and one best suited to their special requirements may do so.

What Other Places are Doing. First, let us take a brief glance at what is being done elsewhere. Of all countries, Germany took the lead, having set the example, which has been followed by Great Britain and the United States in providing a complete system of vocational and technical schools throughout their respective countries. This was the result of close study of conditions in order to adapt the educational system of the country to the needs of the masses; to reach out and help forward that vast number who make the workers in the industries and in those vocations add from what may be called the professional.

The purpose, however, was not and is not to develop the mechanical side at the expense of the scholastic, but to have the two go hand in hand. To awaken in the youthful minds the desire to add to their knowledge generally, they are taught an important part of their general education, the fundamentals of civics, the meaning of government and why law should be obeyed, that the boy of today will be the voter of tomorrow and the girl the mother and housekeeper, something of the laws of health, the need to develop the higher faculties, to be a good citizen; in short to draw out the best and make an efficient man or woman. All these and much more are the objects sought and, to a greater or less extent, secured.

That Canadians are alive to the need is shown by the activity of the laic government, who appointed a commission, with Professor Robertson as chairman, to make a thorough investigation and report upon the whole question.

The Canadian Manufacturers' Association, who, for a number of years, strongly urged this course, were represented on the commission and quite recently the first section of their report has been published.

The inquiry occupied several years and covered a wide field, including Europe and America, and the full report with its deductions and recommendations will be of great interest. I feel that I cannot do better than to submit the following extract, which forms a part of same and gives a summary of their conclusions:

From the testimony received it appears highly desirable in the interests of vocational efficiency:

(1) That all children to the age of fourteen years should receive the benefits of elementary general education up to, at least, the standard provided by the school system of the place or province where they live; (2) That the experience of the school should tend more directly towards the inculcation and conservation of a love of productive, constructive and conserving labor; (3) That after twelve years of age for the children whose parents expect them to follow manual occupations, the content of the courses, the methods of instruction and experience from work undertaken at school should have as close relation as practicable to the productive, constructive and conserving occupations to be followed after the children leave school.

The Commission is further of opinion:

(4) That benefits from such pre-vocational education would accrue (a) from the interest awakened in manual occupations; (b) from the discovery through their experience and exposure to the public themselves, and to the teachers and the parents, of the best of their abilities and aptitudes; and (c) to follow the taste and preference thus developed leading the children to follow skilled occupations for which they are suited;

(5) That further advantage would result because the interest which the study of law, which she is now practicing with success in Paris. She said, "I have been in every class of school, and the women I like best, because I think them the most moral, the most clever and most interesting, the women engaged in industrial work."

In this province, while practically nothing has yet been done along technical lines, the creation of evening classes, the gift of the late L. P. Fisher, of Woodstock, has recently been completed by his executors and will be devoted to the creation of evening classes, and form the foundation for a technical school system for the town. One section of this building will be devoted to the training of girls, which will be equipped and carried on by the province. Departments for domestic science and manual training will be equipped and conducted by the town.

The establishment of consolidated schools throughout the province, (as inaugurated by Sir William McDonald) with their manual training and domestic science departments and school gardens have been very successful and the education department of the government are to be congratulated for their efforts along this line. The introduction of similar courses by the Board of School Trustees in this city has been productive of excellent results, and these classes are greatly appreciated by the parents, whose children have profited by them.

Who, that has seen the keen delight which many a boy (not over studious) takes in his work at the bench, and the greater interest in other studies, in consequence, will recognize what an important factor it is.

The average boy likes to do things; to create something of his own; to be a maker, not a doer. Under the influence of this added joy in his work he becomes more receptive and power is gained to ensure a greater interest in other studies.

of the people in this connection, having a few years ago established at Halifax a Technical College, whose influence and work reaches throughout the entire province by means of night schools in all the principal centres. These schools have been very successful in ordinary English branches and special industrial courses adapted to the needs of the predominating industries in that section, as for instance for miners, iron and steel workers, fishermen, etc.

Some years ago I attended a banquet of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association at which Premier Murray spoke and in which he dwelt upon the work being done through this college and stated that it was his ambition and intention to expand it still further, as he felt that it was the most important work his government had to do.

In Toronto, Toronto and other cities, Evening Industrial Classes are becoming regular features of educational work. At the gathering, referred to, there were gentlemen present from each of these cities, who were most enthusiastic over the start made and the possibilities ahead.

The government of Quebec are falling into line and, in following the example of Nova Scotia, are preparing to deal with the whole question in a comprehensive manner. The city of Toronto is engaged in carrying out a programme, which, when complete within the next two or three years, will mean the expenditure of several million of dollars.

Going farther west, Calgary is a notable example of activity under the superintendence of T. B. Kidder, formerly of this province, and whose excellent services it is a pity we have lost. That city has developed a complete system of evening schools, which, without dwelling upon, are fully dealt with in a circular, which I will pass around.

While in Halifax and talking with Professor Sexton, I asked him what, in his opinion, would be a suitable course, with which to start in St. John, explaining to him what had been done here last year. His views, briefly condensed, are as follows:

A class in mechanical and architectural drawing three nights weekly. A class in plumbing and sanitation. A class in dressmaking and domestic science for women and girls, or what may be called a household arts course, two nights weekly.

This class he looks upon as very important, as it would include how to select materials and the making up of same; also laundry work and household decorations. The students would bring their own things, whether for cooking or dressmaking, and take them away with them again, so that there would be no expenditure for materials.

He also suggested a class in electricity, although this would necessitate a laboratory and equipment; a outfit costing say, \$2,000. Other classes could be added as the work expanded, as for instance, one in sheet metal drafting and so on.

The class hours are usually from 7.30 to 9.30 p. m., and teachers, who are selected from those in the community best suited to the work, are paid \$2.00 for the lesson of two hours. In his experience, they have found it possible to secure public school teachers for some of the branches, and capable workmen, foremen or carpenters, for the classes that need technical skill.

Regarding commercial courses in bookkeeping, etc., his opinion is that if the commercial colleges are doing their work well, it would be as well to leave this department in their hands.

The course for women, suggested above, reminds me of a recent statement made by a clever French woman, who, while visiting in this country, the study of law, which she is now practicing with success in Paris. She said, "I have been in every class of school, and the women I like best, because I think them the most moral, the most clever and most interesting, the women engaged in industrial work."

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## HIGH COST OF LIVING PROBLEM FROM STANDPOINT OF LABOR

Colin McKay in Interesting and Instructive Address before Socialists, Last Evening—Reasons for Present State of Affairs Given—Gold Production and Extravagance.

The high cost of living problem, from the standpoint of labor, was the subject of a discourse before the Socialist meeting last evening by Colin McKay.

The speaker said American experience had already discredited the idea that tariff tinkering was a remedy. He pointed out that while in the census decade 1907-1911 the average wages of New Brunswick farm labor rose 50 per cent. in the United States, that promised land of the farmer, average farm wages only increased 63 cents a month. The speaker said:

Kautsky, the foremost German exponent of the doctrine of the high cost of living is the cheaper cost of gold production. Gold is the measure of the average of production. The primary factor in the high cost of living is the cheaper cost of gold production. Gold is the measure of the average of production. The primary factor in the high cost of living is the cheaper cost of gold production.

With the opening of the Yukon in 1897, and the development of mining in South Africa after the Boer war, and the very general application of the cyanide process in other countries, gold production was cheapened, the supply of gold was increased, and prices began to rise in all capitalistic countries.

Similar phenomena have occurred in the past. After the discovery of the new world, opening up a new gold supply, prices rose rapidly. First in Spain, then spreading all over Europe, Sauerbeck's history of prices on the London market shows the effect of gold production upon prices. His index is the average of prices in London from 1890 to 1900. Taking 100 as the base for that decade, prices back in 1819 were 183, much higher than in 1890. By 1890 the index had declined to 112. Then the California gold fields were opened and London prices rose by 1867 to 159. From then to 1890 and later, there was a comparative stagnation in gold production and prices declined to 108 in 1889, and to 93 in 1897. From 1897 there has been a rapid increase in gold production, as well as a cheapening of processes of gold extraction, and prices have also risen rapidly in all capitalistic countries.

Price Movements. In the main the variation in the production, cost and the supply of gold will account for international price movements; but even other factors must be considered. High prices in England following the Napoleonic wars were, no doubt, in part due to previous interruption of production and the rapid increase in the national debt. The development of machine production by lessening the labor cost, contributed something to the decline of prices from 1819 to 1849. The decade from 1849 to 1859 was marked by a rapid development of overseas commerce (it was the clipper ship period) and a consequent diversion of capital and labor from production proper. No doubt, this was a large factor in the increase in production having something to do with the rapid increase in prices. Up to the middle of the last century England was in a large measure, the workshop of the world. But from then on other nations began to develop their industrial resources. Machine production was greatly improved, cheapening production, while the development of steamships and railways cheapened distribution. These developments were a contributing factor in the international decline of prices which went on till 1897, a rather important factor too. In fact it may be said that the national industrial development not only assisted greatly to reduce prices from 1857 to 1897, but has had a strong tendency to resist.

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When your poor, suffering feet sting from walking, when you try to wriggle your corns away from the leather of your shoes, when shoes pinch, and feet fester, when feet are swollen, sore, chafed—don't experiment—just use "TIZ." Get instant relief. "TIZ" puts peace in tired, burning, painful feet. Ah! how comfortable your shoes feel. Walk five miles, feet won't hurt you, won't swell after using "TIZ."

Sore, tender, sweaty, smelly feet need "TIZ" because it's the only remedy that draws out all the poisonous exudations which puff up the feet and cause foot torture. "TIZ" is the only remedy that takes pain and soreness right out of corns, callouses and bunions.

Get a 25 cent box of "TIZ" at any druggist or department store. Get a whole year's comfort for only 25 cents. Think of it!

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## Speculation and Extravagance, Amusements and War have withdrawn a large amount of capital and labor from productive undertakings, or at least held up the further development of industries and natural resources. What is worrying the working class is the slowing down of production.

In the last twenty years or so there has been a change in the social structure of the average Canadian family. The housewife is no longer a family provider. Twenty years ago the average Canadian housewife made the family clothing, knit socks, caps, mufflers, manufactured butter, cheese, preserved foods, offered the wool cloth, carpets, etc. Today the average kid wants furs and silk stockings; home-made articles are out of date. Hence the demands upon a man's earnings are much greater than when the housewife manufactured a great variety of articles of family use. Also the cost of new services supplied by the butcher and grocer affected prices. Today few women carry a market basket.

Then in adding a manufacturing structure to the economic house of Canada, less capital and labor have been available for agricultural, fishing and other extractive industries. If lowering the tariff would reduce the cost of living, the speaker said Pearson's magazine, an independent American periodical, declared editorially that prices in the States had continued to go up since the Wilson tariff bill was adopted, and that nobody had benefited except a few importers and the beef trust. Up to 1910 average wholesale prices of farm, fish and forest products in Canada increased from 24 to 37 per cent, while prices of manufactured articles, supposed to benefit most by the tariff, only increased 10 per cent.

It was not likely there would be any slump of importance in prices in the near future, because the banking interests were so closely associated with the dominant industrial interests that it was to their advantage to afford sufficient credit to maintain prices. In former depressions the banks were more of a mere money lender, and when he called loans the manufacturer and merchant had to sell at a sacrifice to raise money.

Under capitalism depressions were inevitable, because every industrial country produced more than the workers could buy back with the wages they received. A surplus piled up for which a ready sale was not available in over-crowded foreign markets, and production was slowed down till the surplus was dissipated. In Canada because of its peculiar conditions and resources the recovery would be speedier than in other countries, and when production was speeded up again progress would be more rapid than ever before, if the hydro-electric powers of the country were utilized.

In Canada the burden of the cost of living is not by long odds, wholly measured by the increase in prices. Since 1900 wholesale prices have increased 31 per cent; manufacturing workers' wages from 1900 to 1910, increased 40 per cent, without increase in many lines since. Average wages of New Brunswick agricultural laborers increased from 1900 to 1910, by over 50 per cent, without any increase of any kind; though in the States farm wages during the same time only 63 cents a month.

In Canada average wages in many lines increased at a greater rate than the index of wholesale prices. Nevertheless the average person finds it harder to make ends meet. A feature of the last decade in Canada has been the increase in rents.

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The Six is a better power producer. A six-cylinder motor, with overlapping power impulses, and no gaps or dead centres, produces more power from a gallon of gasoline than does a Four.

The Four works in jerks, the Six by a steady pull. The Four has gaps and dead centres where a heavy fly-wheel must carry the moving parts by its momentum. The Hudson Six has a light fly-wheel and the engine pull never stops.

Thus the Hudson Six produces more power per gallon of gasoline than a Four. The steady application of the power carries the car proportionately further. So the mileage from the Hudson Six per gallon is greater than the mileage from a Four. In an economy race at Harrisburg, Pa., a Hudson Six won against the best Fours made. Its record was 15 miles to the gallon. This in a car with a heavier load of passengers and baggage than was carried by any of its competitors.

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Come and see us and we will prove every point. And in addition will show you the Hudson Six-54, the equal of any motor car made, at the remarkably low price of \$2950 in the phaeton model, and \$4050 in the sedan style.

The Hudson Six-40, 123-inch wheel base, 47 H. P., comes in phaeton and roadster models at \$2250 and in the new cabriolet model at \$2550. All prices f. o. b. Detroit, Michigan, duty paid.

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Dealers in four-cylinder cars try to keep alive the old idea that because Six is a larger number than Four, therefore a Six must cost more to run than a Four. It's the same kind of argument that used to be made by makers of one-cylinder cars against cars of two cylinders. It was thought that since one cylinder gave so much trouble, why double it by having two cylinders? When a 60 H. P. Six was made by adding two cylinders to a 40 H. P. Four, the advantage was not as great as was anticipated. The motor power of such a Six was 50% greater than the Four, and of course it cost more to run and did not develop 50% more power. But a 60 H. P. Four cost just as much as did a 60 H. P. Six. The extra cost was because of greater power, not because of more cylinders. Four-cylinder folks neglect to tell you that.

Six times four is exactly the same as four times six. Six times 50 inches cylinder space is exactly the same as four times 75 inches cylinder space. And 300 cubic inches cylinder space in a Six cannot possibly burn more gasoline than 300 cubic inches in a Four.

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