

Public Library has a good collection of works on technical subjects, yet they are, for all practical purposes, beyond the reach of our students.

Collections of rocks, minerals, and products illustrating various stages of manufacturing are very much needed in the departments of mining and applied chemistry.

In view of these pressing demands the question will naturally arise, What is to be the outcome of this technical education—where are the young men to find employment? If the country cannot support them, what justification can there be for the expenditure? It seems to me that this is a question in political economy, and might properly be referred to the distinguished head of that department in the University of Toronto or to our friends the Trades and Labor Council.

My answer can only be vague and general. I would reply by asking why we have gone into debt for the purpose of building canals and railways, docks and harbors—why have we built expensive houses of parliament, churches and jails, sewers and water works, colleges and poor-houses? Is it not because we feel that we are as good as our brothers across the sea or as our cousins south of the lakes—are we not a civilized people, and have we not a right to these luxuries whether we can pay for them or not? Is it not as useful to the country to turn out men educated as engineers, architects, mechanics, miners, and farmers as to turn out lawyers, doctors, ministers, and bankers? Will not the graduates of our technical schools have that very education which our mechanics, artisans, and tradesmen of all classes most desire, and of the necessity for which they are reminded every hour? If you had seen with me the crowd of eager men, young and old, who assembled the other evening at the opening of the Toronto Technical School, you would no longer have any doubt as to the desirability and necessity of technical education. If the country cannot support such men, so much the worse for the country, and so much the better for that country in which they find employment.

If we are ever to pay off our foreign debt and trade on equal terms with other nations, we must develop our material resources with economy and skill, and among the means making towards this end not the least promising is Technical Education.