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THE ECONOMICS OF EDUCATION.

BY CHANCELLOR BURWASH, VICTORIA UNIVERSITY.

RUSKIN has taught us to borrow from the sphere of industry, and the production and distribution of wealth, the word economics, and apply it to the production and distribution of spiritual things. It is true that his spiritual things were embodied in the material form of pictures and statuary, and as such were a part of the nation's wealth. But we will venture to press the word a step further. We cannot indeed exchange our sons and daughters for gold as we can our paintings and marbles or bronzes. But none the less we feel that they are our most valuable treasures, and if we cannot part with them for value, they can none the less produce for us wealth, and happy is not the man alone but the country as well that hath its quiver full of them. The prosperity of any country depends upon the power of its population to make the most of its resources. That power depends upon numbers, moral quality, intellectual quality and physical quality. As to numbers, numbers of poor quality become not a help but a dead weight on the prosperity of the country. While numbers are desirable for the full development of a large country like ours, with almost unlimited resources of field, forest, fishery and mine, our first duty is to see

to it that the quality is up to standard, up to the highest practicable standard, morally, intellectually, and physically, and this is the field of education in the broadest sense. If our country is to be truly prosperous we must educate our young population just as a farmer must train his horses if they are to be of any value. And in this work the whole country has a common interest. All classes and sections of the community are one here. True prosperity consists not in one individual getting wealth by taking more than his share and thus stripping his neighbour, but in the more abundant production of new wealth in which all shall share. And to this end the entire working force of the country, *i. e.*, all its people (no drones) must be strong, strong physically, strong intellectually, strong in moral character. We have the land and we can easily get the capital if we have the strength, intelligence and energy necessary to use it. The proper all round education of our young people is the first economic, industrial, political need of our country, the most important plank in the platform of any party who desire to make this country a good land for all the people to live in. Patrons of Industry, Knights of Labour, Reformers, Conservatives, even the