

PREFACE

The greatest educational problem of Canada is how to enable the multitude of manual and other workers to avail themselves of higher education. Their right to the privileges of secondary and university education is now everywhere admitted.

Taking the provinces of Canada—with the exception of Prince Edward Island—which does not supply the figures—it may be shown that not more than eighteen per cent of the pupils who enter the elementary schools of the country pass on to the secondary schools and preparatory colleges. The percentage varies in the different provinces, with Nova Scotia, Ontario and British Columbia leading, followed by the three prairie provinces, Quebec, and New Brunswick. In other words over 80 per cent of the pupils of the elementary schools of the Dominion go out into the world without higher education of any kind.

Very much less is the percentage who reach the universities. The population of Canada is 9,000,000 approximately, yet the total number of students attending our universities is slightly under 21,000. It has been said that not five per cent of the people in the Dominion have a university training, while the number passing directly each year from the elementary schools, through the