

SIR JOHN GORST ON TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

In the course of his address at Melbourne, in December last, Sir John Gorst, late Vice-President of the Board of Education, England, is reported as follows :

Technical Education :

This leads me to this, that in every country in the world, there is now a great rage for technical instruction. I believe that that rage prevails even in the State of Victoria. Everybody wants to be technically instructed. People are quite right in this desire, for we live in an age when the nation which will be at the head of the economic position will be the nation which produces the most intelligent, industrious and high-charactered set of work-people. The peoples of countries which lag behind will become the hewers of wood and the drawers of water for the more intelligent nations. But remember this. You cannot say, "We will have technical instruction in Victoria"—and begin your instruction to-morrow. There is a great deal of uphill work to be done before men and women are fit to receive technical instruction. Let me compare two places—Charlottenburg in Prussia and Manchester in England. Charlottenburg has the finest technical school in the world—excellent laboratories and lecture rooms, and the first men in Europe as teachers. To this school come every year 5000 young Germans who have been through primary and secondary schools ; who come with a knowledge of chemistry and engineering and other things which fit them to receive higher instruction. Now look at Manchester, one of the most intelligent and go-ahead cities of the Empire. They have an institution in no way inferior—in equipment or in teaching—to Charlottenburg. But you can't get to Manchester 5000 students a year ! You may open your doors and advertise your lectures, but where are the young men and women prepared for the instruction you have provided for them ?

Improving Secondary Schools :

You must improve your secondary schools. Your young men and women must be prepared—by knowledge of literature, of languages of science—before they can become real good technical scholars. It is the duty of every State to guarantee the quality of the education given to its children. In a well-ordered State, no person should be permitted to dabble in the instruction of youth, any more than to dabble in medicine or in law. Though I have always protested against too much State interference this is one of the duties which the State has to perform.

SUMMER SCHOOL OF SCIENCE.

We have received from the Secretary of the Summer School of Science, Mr. J. D. Seaman, Charlottetown, P. E. I., a copy of the annual announcement of the School, which will be in session from the 2nd to the 19th of July.

The course of study of the School, which includes Botany, Chemistry, Geology, Drawing, Manual Training, English Literature, Physiology, Physics, Zoology and kindred subjects, is clearly outlined.

The advantages of Riverside, with its Consolidated School, in Albert Co., N. B., where the session is to be held, are fully detailed.

Teachers, and others interested in education, will find in this announcement information of interest to them. A copy will be sent to any who apply to the Secretary for it.