

### A Friend of Higher Education

THE men who give money stand out prominently nowadays among the thousands who devote their energies chiefly to making it. Canada has not many benefactors, not many men of wealth who have made it a practice to give largely. Perhaps the time will come, when the novelty of prosperity wears off a little, when public generosity will have a greater favor among our rich men. If that be so, there is at least one man in Canada who is ahead of his time.

Sir William Macdonald has already given largely to the cause of higher education in Canada, and he has given quietly and without display. His benefactions have been widely noticed, but his motives and methods have been as unostentatious as they well could be. To what he has already done for McGill University and for the system of schools which bears his name, he has recently added a plan for a great technical college which promises to exceed in importance any of his previous benefactions. It is a scheme to build and equip near Montreal an agricultural and technical school, which shall embrace all the principles and methods of modern education along its particular lines. This is an enlargement of the purpose which Sir William had in view when he provided the fine Macdonald Institute at the Guelph Agricultural College, mention of which was made in one of last summer's issues. It has been stated that this great enterprise will mean an expenditure of \$5,000,000, and that it forms only a part of a scheme of higher education which is to be eventually widened to the whole Dominion. In this work Sir William has associated with him, as his lieutenant, Professor Robertson, than whom there is not a better man in Canada to administer a benefaction so important and so well-timed in its character.

### Our Interest in Europe's Troubles

CANADA is ordinarily not very closely interested in the internal troubles of the European states. Discontent and revolutions have become chronic, and the

news of some fresh trouble, while it awakens a degree of sympathy with the people who must suffer for it, does not cause either great surprise or concern in this part of the world. When, however, the result of such troubles is so far-reaching that it extends to our own country, the matter assumes quite a different aspect; and thus it is that Canada has some reason to be interested in the present political and industrial condition of Hungary and Austria.

An agent of several emigration societies in those countries spent some months, during the latter part of the year, in the Canadian North-West, carefully investigating general conditions and the prospects for colonization. He returned to Austria highly pleased with the country, and will report favorably upon a proposed scheme of emigration. The reason behind this action is the growing disaffection among the people of Hungary and Austria. Industrially the dual kingdom is at a standstill, while its political affairs give little hope for the future. The situation in both aspects is full of menace, and a large proportion of the people are looking to emigration as their only relief. Some of them are coming to Canada, and the recent visit of their agent was with this purpose in view. It is likely that next spring there will be a considerable influx of immigrants from both these countries, and thus Canada will gain from Europe's troubles.

### Some Prison Reforms

THERE are nineteen asylums for the insane in Canada, with over twelve thousands inmates. Of these, with eight asylums, Ontario has something over five thousand, who are cared for probably as well as in most other countries, at least. The asylums are under strict supervision, and on the whole are creditable institutions. For some years, however, a condition of affairs has been permitted which now is wisely to be remedied. Insane people have been lodged in the county jails and have been kept there in some cases even after their insanity was fully proven. This has not only been harmful to the inmates