

the regular attendance of youths at evening classes, after having been engaged in laborious employment for ten or twelve hours during the day, requires comfortable class rooms, good teachers, and judicious rewards for successful study. Need there be any difficulty in securing these? We think not, with legislative aid nearly proportioned to that given to other interests. The class accommodation in the Toronto Mechanics' Institute is not so good as it should be, nor are the prizes awarded to the successful students of any considerable money value; yet the average attendance of pupils at these classes for the past four years has been about 150 per session. This is indicative of the success that might be attained under a more liberal system of support. Our next enquiry is, how the necessary public support can best be given to these institutions, so as to secure the desired result?

In the year 1859, the Finance Minister of Canada, the Hon. Mr. Galt, assured a deputation from this Board that the grants to Mechanics' Institutes would shortly be resumed, under a more judicious mode of distribution than formerly. In April 1862 the Board again memorialized the government to renew the grants to institutes, and submitted a scheme nearly as follows:—

1st. A renewal of the grants to each properly organized Mechanics' Institute throughout the Province, embracing not less than fifty members, paying at least \$1 per annum, and twenty of whom shall be working mechanics or manufacturers.

2nd. Fifty per cent. of the grant to be appropriated to the purchase of books of an instructive character for manufacturers and artisans; such works to be supplied through the Board of Arts and Manufactures at reduced rates; but the selection from an approved list, to be made by the Institutes themselves.

3rd. Forty per cent. to be devoted to the encouragement of classes established in the respective Institutes, for class instruction in mechanical or natural sciences, by lectures or otherwise.

4th. Ten per cent. to be retained by the Board of Arts and Manufactures, for prizes to successful competitors at the Annual Examination of members of Mechanics' Institutes, established by this Board.

5th. The distribution of the annual grants for Upper Canada to be made by this Board, upon approved returns from each Institute of the proper application of the funds applied for and expended in the formation and instruction of classes, or in the establishment of prizes, such returns to be forwarded by this Board to the Auditor General at the close of each year, with a report on the working of the respective Institutes.

6th. Any funds not legally claimed by the Institutes, to be set apart for the engagement of occasional lectures on subjects relating to arts and manufactures, selected by the respective Boards and for the publication of such lectures with

appropriate illustrations in the journals of the respective Boards.

Some such plan as was then sketched out by the Board, would, under a wise management, produce results as satisfactory in the Arts and Manufactures of the Dominion, as has the Legislative aid to Agricultural Associations been beneficial to Agriculture; and that such aid to the latter has been productive of the most satisfactory and beneficial results, no one at all acquainted with the history of Agriculture in the Province, for the last twenty-five years, will attempt to deny.

As to whether the grants should be made as formerly of a fixed sum to each Institute, irrespective of the populations of the different localities, or of the number of enrolled members; or whether the aid given should be on the same principle as the grants to Agricultural Societies, *viz.*, in proportion to the *bona fide* subscriptions of their members, is a mere matter of detail not now necessary to discuss; but that aid should be given, in some form or other, is beyond doubt, in view of the liberal grants to other class interests, and of the importance of the interests in question.

In January 1865, this Board submitted to the government a scheme for establishing a school of arts, or college for mechanics;* as contemplated by its act of organization. This school, if established, and in connection with the Annual Examinations by the Board, would bear the same relations to the Mechanics' Institute adult classes, that the universities now sustain to their several affiliated colleges; and, when once fairly in operation, would secure for the graduates as great proportionate advantages as are now enjoyed by the successful competitors at the London *Society of Arts* Examinations, or the *middle-class* examinations of the University of Cambridge—the certificates of either Institutions being now accepted by the great body of employers in Great Britain, and by the Imperial Government for employment in the civil service, without further examination.

Since the establishment of our Canadian universities, a few benevolent individuals have donated free scholarships therein; and one, at least—John McDonald, Esq., M. P. P.—has restricted the competition for his gift to the sons of mechanics. This, under the circumstances, was recognizing as far as possible the importance of the mechanical interests; but under the system here proposed, a scholarship in the school of arts would be a much more valuable gift, as a general rule, both to the mechanical interests and to the country.

We trust to see this subject taken up, by both General and Local Governments, and treated upon

* See Journal for Feb. 1865, p. 34.