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All articles, contributions, and letters on matters pertaining to the editorial department should be addressed to the Editor, and not to any person who may be supposed to be connected with the paper.

THE formal opening of the engineering laboratory of the Ontario School of Practical Science, a few evenings since, illustrates a new and as we think a most wise and hopeful departure in educational methods, which is making rapid progress in popular favour. We may assume that our readers—those who were unable to listen to the addresses and to inspect the machinery on the occasion referred to, as well as those who were present—are familiar with the general purpose and work of the School of Science which has for the last ten years been under the control of the Ontario Government. The new laboratory, which is now in working order, consists, as was explained by Principal Galbraith in his excellent address, of three departments: "First, the department for testing materials of construction; second, the department for investigating the principles governing the applications of power. This department is subdivided into the steam laboratory, the hydraulic laboratory and the electrical laboratory. The third department may be termed a geodetic and astronomical laboratory, as the work to be done in it, which relates principally to standards of length and time, is of special importance in these sciences." These departments are fitted up with powerful, and in some respects unique, machinery and appliances for their respective purposes. The point to which we wish particularly to call attention is, however, the underlying educational principle which regulates and justifies the establishment of such schools. They are not intended, it is important to observe, to teach practically any trade or trades. Their proper sphere embraces only the scientific principles and laws underlying the various trades to which they are more or less closely related. Their work is, therefore, as strictly educational as that of any other of our schools or colleges, and they are at least as easily justified. All thinking people will agree that it would be both undesirable and utterly impracticable to undertake to fit individuals at the public expense for the practice of any trade or profession, in order that they may thereby earn a livelihood or acquire wealth. Perhaps the only legitimate exception to this rule is that made in the case of teachers; if even this be legitimate, it is only on the ground of public necessity. Another exception is, to some extent, now made in Ontario in the case of medicine; but it is one which cannot be logically defended and which involves, as we have on for-

mer occasions pointed out, serious injustice in more than one direction. The true ideal of education, it is coming to be more clearly seen than ever before, is the development of the mental powers by the study of principles and laws, whether in the domain of language, of mathematics, of philosophy, or of science—distinctively so called, though all, when properly pursued, become scientific studies—in such directions as may promote the usefulness of the student and become of practical service to him in after life. The great mistake, if any, is in beginning to apply this broad educational and economic principle at the wrong end of the scale. It should be, and we doubt not will be at some future time, applied first in the lower grades—in a word, in the public schools, where the need is greatest. We have not space at present to define or defend this view as we should like, but we may suggest our meaning and the line of argument we would pursue by the following quotation from an English educational journal, descriptive of a new school for girls which is soon to be opened in Paris:—

One of the features of this new establishment is a work-room, in which instruction will be given in sewing, cutting out, art tapestry and making children's clothes from the earliest period of infancy to the age of seven or eight. There is also another work-shop for instruction in millinery, dressmaking, manufacturing, trimmings, and all kinds of fancy work. It is not intended to teach trades, but to stimulate invention, cultivate taste and make girls generally handy and able, with but little technical instruction, to take up a business. . . . The number of girls the new Municipal School in the Rue des Martyrs can take in will be 850. It is probable that six such schools will be created, so as to enable the *élite* of the girls' primary schools to receive an education at once adapted to cultivate the highest mental faculties, and to render them useful and practical women, not above any kind of work which may happen to come in their way.

WE have in another paragraph, as we have often done before, freely expressed our honest opinion in regard to the existing Franchise Act. Since that paragraph was written the result of the contest in London has become known. It is needless to say that whatever may be the ultimate decision in regard to the points in dispute, it is not easy to condemn too strongly a system under which such a result was possible. Touching questions of fact in regard to which the versions of the party organs are at variance it is unnecessary to speak. We have just now been reading a clear and apparently candid article from the *London Free Press*, and we are bound to say that according to the statements of that article, we are unable to see how any fair-minded person, no matter how strong his prepossessions in favour of the Government and the popular Minister of Agriculture, can hesitate either to condemn the Act under which such things can occur, or to agree with those Conservative papers which admit that Mr. Carling is not in equity entitled to the seat. Waiving all disputed points, the simple fact that the Minister stands elected only in virtue of votes which were declared worthless by the Returning Officer, who certainly cannot be suspected of Opposition leanings, seems to us decisive of the merits of the case, and we are unwilling to believe that Mr. Carling will not see it in the same light. It is one of the iniquities of the Franchise Act that it affords facilities for the stuffing of the preliminary lists with hundreds of names of those who have no right to vote. It is bad enough that the removal of such names can be effected only with great expense and trouble, to which is superadded the constant danger of failure through non-compliance with some legal technicality. But that an "Honourable" Member, not to say a Crown Minister, should owe his seat in the House even for a session to such votes, after they have actually been found to be worthless by the Government's own officer and have been struck off by him, would be worse. One New Brunswick Member already sits in the House in virtue of his opponent's failure to observe a legal technicality, but better things are expected from Mr. Carling. In the foregoing we assume that the Revising Officer would not have struck off the names without clear and satisfactory evidence that they had no right to be on the list. If there is any room for doubt on this point, as the *Free Press* intimates, the case is, of course, modified, in proportion.

"LIBERALISM" in Ontario seems to be in some respects a rather nondescript thing. We are said to have been blessed with a "Liberal" administration for twenty years. The laws and institutions of the Province should have become pretty thoroughly transformed in that period. Now, among the things that are generally supposed to be peculiarly obnoxious to the spirit of political liberalism is class privilege of every kind. Close corporations we have always been taught to regard as a species of Tory exotic, which could never root themselves in "Liberal" soil or live in a "Liberal" atmosphere. And yet if there is any country in which the close corporation is more at home, or shows more fertility in propagating its kind than in Ontario, under the present *regime*, we should not care to be a citizen of that country. The session of the Legislature is but fairly opened when a member of the Government is to the fore with a Bill to create another. This time it is the land surveyors who are in search of a charter. Last year it was the undertakers, though through some distinction, too nice for ordinary discrimination, their application failed for the time being; and, if our memory is not at fault, the architects, or did their Bill come the year before? Next year it may be the bakers, or—heaven forefend!—the plumbers. Are we going back to the old system of guilds, such as those whose fetters were broken in the Mother Country by the Municipal Corporation Reform Act of 1835? We are, in fact, already in the same position, so far as some of the more learned occupations are concerned, since no man, no matter how great his professional skill and erudition, may prescribe a pill, or defend a client in the courts, but by leave of the exclusive corporations to whose self-interested guardianship those useful and honourable callings have been handed over. Let us not be misunderstood. We have no special objection to the incorporation of the surveyors. So far as we are able to see they have as good a right to be made a close corporation as have the members of any other calling. And as for that matter, so have the undertakers and the plumbers and the bakers and the members of every other trade or profession. Why should not everybody be protected from the competition of everybody else? If it be said that the generous object of these special guilds, or that of the Government and Legislature in chartering them, is to protect the public, we are by no means sure that the public does not stand more in need of protection from incompetent bakers or plumbers than from incompetent doctors or lawyers. Probably more lives are made miserable or cut short by the former than by the latter. The right of the members of any organized society to the corporate powers necessary for the transaction of business cannot be denied, but we were under the impression that those could be had without a special charter. The tendency of all such special corporations is, as was clearly pointed out in the course of the too brief debate in the Legislature, to gradual encroachment until absolute monopoly is the result, as may be seen in the case of some of the professions referred to. The only safeguard from the indefinite extension of such monopolies seems to be in the fact that they are not likely soon to be proportionally as well represented in the House as are the doctors and lawyers.

YEAR by year it is becoming the fashion for the "Speech from the Throne," with which old custom decrees that the sessions of Parliaments and Legislatures under the British system shall be opened, to be made more a matter of form than a serious exposition of the policy of the Government by which it is prepared, or a foreshadowing of the legislation they propose to initiate during the session. The speech prepared for the Governor-General, and read by him at the opening of the current session of the Dominion Parliament the other day, was decidedly in the growing fashion, as the remarkable celerity with which it was disposed of in the Commons attests. Yet it was not wholly devoid of interest. The information given with reference to the results, or prospective results, of the brief conference at Washington, is both interesting and important, so far as it goes. The reference to the forthcoming settlement of the Behring Sea difficulty by the only method worthy of two civilized and Christianized nations, though not exactly "news," is very pleasing