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## \_\_\_\_\_\_ CANADIAN ARCHITECT AND BUILDER.

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MR. W. C. McDONALD, of Montreal, has placed the youth of Canada under deep obligation to him by his recent bequest of \$40,000 for the endowment of a chair of electrical engineering at McGill University. Thus the means has been provided by which our young men may obtain the knowledge they require without being obliged as heretofore to go beyond the bounds of their own country. We learn that the electrical laboratories in the new building, now in course of erection, will contain all the necessary apparatus and facilities for electrical work, and the classes of the professor of experimental physics with all the apparatus at his disposal will also be available for the instruction of the students in this department.

A MONTREAL plumber addressing the plumbing class at the Montreal School of Arts, is reported to have imparted the following advice : " Improve your minds, read good books of all kinds, take the trade papers, keep posted and well up, and when an opportunity for a good position comes, as come in the course of time it must, you will be qualified to fill it, and if the best qualified you will be sure to get it. \* \* \* Be patriotic, stick up for your town and province and country every time and everywhere. It is your country and my country and well worth working for, and if the necessities ever arise, which God forbid, well worth dying for. See to it that Canada, our country, has some of your time, thought and energy to its building up and future prosperity." This kind of thing sounds grand and inspiring apart from the knowledge that the gentleman indulging in it doesn't practice what he preaches. The patriotism which will assist the progress of this country will consist not of empty sounds, but of deeds.

THE circumstances under which the architect and contractor employed in the erection of the court house at Woodstock, Ont., were dismissed a few months ago, are probably fresh in the minds of our readers. The County Council selected other architects to carry out the work, and appointed them arbitrators to decide what remuneration the contractor was entitled to receive who had been dismissed. The arbitrators have reported that the contractor is entitled to no remuneration whatever. The contractor is not likely to coincide in this opinion, and may be expected to be heard from at an early date through his solicitors. The prediction was hazarded by this journal on a previous occasion that the county authorities of Oxford were unlikely to find that they had arrived so soon at the end of their difficulties in connection with the erection of this court house. Present indications point to the certain fulfilment of that prophecy. It cannot be expected that out of such a bad beginning should come a good ending.

THE Master Builders' organizations of the Dominion could cite a splendid rationale for their existence were they to vigorously take up the question of the organization of trade schools after the manner of those being so successfully developed across the border. In these days of machinery and specialization and of jealous journeymen, our youths have little opportunity to learn thoroughly a trade. Masters realize this, but seem powerless to provide a remedy. The supply of well trained mechanics is a vital point in relation to the independence of the master builder and in his ability to turn out satisfactory work. The trade schools, properly conducted, would till this want, giving boys-sons of tradesmen, mechanics and laborers-an opportunity to thoroughly learn their chosen trade; making the master builders inde-