



Published on the first and third Friday of each month, by the
CANADIAN MANUFACTURER PUBLISHING Co., (Limited).

6 WELLINGTON STREET WEST, TORONTO.

FREDERIC NICHOLLS, *Managing Director.*

J. J. CASSIDEY, *Editor.*

ED. D. McCORMACK, *Secretary.*

SUBSCRIPTION. - - - \$2.00 per year.

ADVERTISING RATES SENT ON APPLICATION.

MR. FREDERIC NICHOLLS is Secretary of
The Canadian Manufacturers' Association,
The Woolen Manufacturers' Association, and
The Tanners' Association.

His Office is at the Publication Office of the
CANADIAN MANUFACTURER,
6 Wellington Street West, Toronto.

PRISONS vs. COLLEGES.

THE Montreal *Witness* is about as badly daft regarding the employment of convicts as *The Week* and some other superwise journals. In arguing in favor of the profitable employment of convicts in mechanical industries, it cites the fact that in three state prisons in New York there are some twenty-six hundred convicts who, up to a year ago, by such employment made them "highly organized industrial institutions." It tells us that one hundred and fifty convicts can supply the whole number of convicts with clothing and other necessary articles, so that the effect of the law recently gone into effect in that state forbidding the sale of convict-made goods in competition with the products of free labor, is to condemn the convicts to idleness. It complains that instead of being taught to work at trades, these convicts are being taught to be idle; instead of being given an opportunity through their work at trades to become men, they are left with nothing to occupy their minds; and that as a result of this law the State has lost the productive labor of twenty-six hundred men.

This reasoning is specious. The argument is based upon the supposition that, in the case of convicts, the only benefit they can be to the State is as skilled workmen employed in productive industries. If the *Witness* would but open its eyes it would witness the fact that the State has invested very largely in lands and money for the establishing and support of educational institutions in which mechanical trades are not taught, and in which no industrial labor is performed at all from which the State derives any benefit whatever. Laboring men, however, are taxed to support these institutions, although from the nature of their circumstances, it is impossible that either themselves or their children can enjoy any of their privileges. In Montreal, as well as in Toronto, and indeed, in

many other cities and towns in Canada, large areas of valuable lands are occupied by elegant and expensive buildings, all bought and erected at the expense of the State, and richly endowed with money contributed by the State, used for the education of young men to enable them to become—mechanics? Oh, no! but lawyers, doctors, ministers, soldiers, etc. Will the *Witness* please observe that in this direction certainly the State recognizes the value of others than mechanics among its inhabitants; and that, strange as it may be, while other important walks in life are prepared for in colleges, seminaries and universities—the professorships in which are esteemed high honors, and the graduating exercises of which are attended with great *eclat*—the only instruction the *Witness* desires the State to bestow in the direction of mechanical trades is upon convicts and outcasts from society, while confined in penitentiaries, and as punishment, under the fear of the lash in the hands of prison task masters. Why should this be thus? If colleges and universities should be supported by the State for the benefit of embryo lawyers and doctors, but a very small percentage of whom ever become of any real value to the community, why should not those who wish to become mechanics be allowed to do so in these same institutions; and, *per contra*, if penitentiaries are the only institutions in which the State cares to afford practical instruction in productive mechanical labor, and this only to convicts and outcasts, why not add to the curriculum of these penal institutions a system by which the convicts may be instructed in law, medicine and divinity, and graduated accordingly? Either let those who desire to obtain professional educations get them without taxing the general public for the purpose, or extend the curriculum of our colleges so that the pupils so desiring may be graduated as carpenters, blacksmiths, machinists, bricklayers, etc. On the other hand, if the State thinks it necessary to impart instruction to convicts confined in penitentiaries, let that instruction be extended so as to include law, medicine and divinity, as well as the mechanical trades.

THE EDISON PATENTS.

THE Supreme Court of the United States have just rendered a decision which determines the relations of American and foreign patents, and clearly defines what certain rights of American inventors are. The case adjudicated was that of the Bate Refrigerator Company vs. Hammond, but the decision will be more far reaching in its effects than any other which the court has passed upon in many years. The point involved was the effect which a foreign patent has on the duration of an American patent subsequently issued to the same inventor. American patents are granted for the term of seventeen years. The Revised Statutes of the United States provide that the previous issue of a foreign patent for the same invention shall not invalidate the American patent, provided the subsequent American patent shall be so limited as to expire with the foreign patent, or if there are two or more foreign patents, with that one having the shortest term. In construing this statute a complication early arose from the fact that many foreign countries grant patents for short terms of one, five or six years, which terms may be extended on the payment of certain fees. The question was, whether the American patent should expire at the end of the shorter term for which a foreign patent for the same invention