

THE WEEK.

Ninth Year.
Vol. IX., No. 28.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, JUNE 10th, 1892.

\$3.00 per Annum.
Single Copies, 10 Cents.

THE WEEK:

AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF POLITICS, LITERATURE, SCIENCE AND ART

TERMS:—One year, \$3.00; eight months, \$2.00; four months, \$1.00. Subscriptions payable in advance.

Subscribers in Great Britain and Ireland supplied, postage prepaid on terms following:—One year, 12s. stg.; half-year, 6s. stg. Remittances by P.O. order or draft should be made payable and addressed to the Publisher.

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European Agents—SMITH, AINSLIE & Co., 25 Newcastle Street, Strand, London.

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Publisher.

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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.

At a meeting of the Senate of Toronto University, on Friday evening last, the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. William Mulock, M.P., presented an elaborate statement in regard to the matters on which we have before commented, touching the lease of the College Street lots for the purposes of the projected Park Hospital, and the changes so mysteriously, one might almost say surreptitiously, made in the interior arrangements of the Biological building. Mr. Mulock's statement has certainly the merits of frankness and candour. He takes upon himself the whole responsibility for the change in the plans for the interior of the building in question, and also for the method which was adopted to conceal from the Senate and others interested the fact that those changes were being made, thus exonerating Professor Ramsay Wright from all responsibility save that involved in following the instructions of the Vice-Chancellor. In another respect Mr. Mulock takes a different line of defence from that which has been relied on by the Minister of Education, Sir Daniel Wilson, and others who have spoken from time to time on the subject. Unlike all these, Mr. Mulock declares that he never imagined that the ground would be taken that no assistance (financial) was to be given by the University to the Medical department, but that, on the contrary, he felt that the policy of the University was to give reasonable aid to medical science, and that so far as he was concerned, it is perfectly true that the charging of the medical faculty with an occupation rent was an afterthought, as until recently he had no idea that any such charge would be made. In short, Mr. Mulock's defence is throughout based upon the frank avowal that he believed it to be in the true interests of the University that a strong medical faculty should be made an integral part of it, sharing in its funds and provided with class-room, hospital and other accommodations at its expense, though he seems to have expected that the department might in the end become largely or entirely self-sustaining.

THOSE who have followed with some attention the discussion of University matters will remember that among the papers laid before the Legislature was a reply by the Minister of Education to certain charges made by Dr. Geikie, in which reply the Minister stated that it was never intended to imperil the existence of other medical colleges or to interfere with their rights, that the large expenditure at Toronto University would have been necessary if no medical faculty had been established, and that it was made in the interest of the department of Biology. It will be remembered also that Sir Daniel Wilson, in the course of the paper which he wrote in answer to Dr. Geikie's open letter, made a series of statements which must certainly be understood to mean or imply that in the construction of both the original biological building and its later extension regard was had only to the wants of the biological and chemical departments, that the accommodation granted to medical classes was only incidental, and that the addition as part of the original plan was contemplated from the first, and would have been no less indispensable had no medical faculty existed. Can it be that the Minister of Education and the President of the University, as well as the Senate, were kept in the dark as to the real design of the building? Yet Sir Daniel Wilson voted, we observe, for the acceptance and endorsement of Mr. Mulock's defence!

LEAVING, however, the Minister of Education and the venerable President of the University to discuss with the Vice-Chancellor the discrepancies in regard to statements both of fact and of policy which seem to arise between them (*vide* Mr. Ross' letter read at the previous meeting of the Senate, touching the circumstances under which he gave his consent to the lease of the lots), we have to confess ourselves unable to reconcile the mode of procedure which the Vice-Chancellor admits having deliberately adopted, and in which neither he nor the majority of Senators who approved his defence seem to see anything wrong, with certain old-fashioned ideas of the straight-forwardness which should govern the members of a dignified and honourable corporation in the discharge of a public trust. Mr. Mulock well says: "A university's work is not confined to the lecture room. Her every action should be an object lesson of what is honourable and true." And yet, in another part of the same paper he says, touching the final arrangements for the lease of the lots:—

In explanation of my not having consulted the Board at every stage in these details, I beg to state that the course pursued was adopted in consequence of the views entertained by the few persons whose absolute concurrence was necessary, namely, that there was danger of the matter receiving publicity which might perhaps endanger the carrying out of the scheme or at least delay it; and such delay, owing to Senator Macdonald's delicate health, might defeat the undertaking.

And in yet another,

It is quite correct that no such names appeared on the plans, and were omitted by my instructions and for the reason stated by the architect in his answer set forth as follows (and what I have added below). His explanation is as follows: "I was instructed not to put names on the rooms used for anatomical purposes because, as I understood, of the possibility of objection being made by residents in the neighbourhood, such possibility being indicated by the opposition to the proposal to convert Wycliffe College old building into a hospital."

Were these object-lessons of the kind indicated? If a hospital were to be erected in the park, to the real or fancied injury of residents in the neighbourhood, or contrary to the wishes of the public who were lawfully interested in both park and university, or if the owners and patrons of the University all over the country were to be exposed to possible or even fancied risk or annoyance through the presence of dissecting rooms in the public buildings to which they send their sons and daughters to be educated, were these stealthy, not to say underhand, methods of deceiving or stealing a march upon possible objectors, object-lessons of the kind which, according to Mr. Mulock's high, but not too high, conception of the moral influence of a university, should be set before the public in her every action? The public must be the judges. Meanwhile not a few readers of this journal will recall a time in the history of

the University of Toronto when it had not the place in the public confidence which it has of late years happily enjoyed, when the people were forced to complain of the darkness which enshrouded some of its proceedings and to turn upon it the search light of parliamentary enquiry and press criticism. It has been hoped and believed that those days were happily past, and that a stage of progress had been reached at which those entrusted with its management could be relied on to take the public into their confidence and do everything above board and in the light of day. It would be a thousand pities should anything occur to injure this delicate plant of public confidence almost as soon as it is fairly rooted.

WE have before us a pamphlet, recently published, containing the reports of two mining engineers on the quality and extent of the Bessemer iron ores which are found in the Township of Snowdon, County of Haliburton, in this Province. From these reports and other sources of information, it is believed by those who have given attention to the subject that in at least two places, both within about 110 miles of Toronto, there are found excellent iron ores, capable of producing the finest steel, and existing apparently in large quantities. We have also before us a copy of a petition, based upon this information, signed by nearly sixty well-known business men and capitalists of the city, and addressed to the Ontario Government, asking substantial encouragement for the establishment of a blast furnace in Toronto, for the manufacture of pig iron from these ores. The petitioners point out the great benefits that would result to the whole country from the establishment and operation of such a furnace in the Province, but claim that, in view of "the considerable degree of uncertainty" attending such an enterprise, capitalists are unwilling to assume the whole risk of its erection. They ask, therefore, that an appropriation be made for the purpose of testing under proper conditions the extent and value of some of the most accessible iron deposits in Ontario, and that, further, a bonus of two dollars per ton on the output of a furnace of a capacity of not less than one hundred tons per day, be given for ten years from the time such furnace shall commence to produce pig iron. The petition certainly deals with a most important matter, and the names attached to it are, many of them, adapted to give weight to any recommendation to which they may be appended. But the two prayers of the petition stand, it seems to us, on very different footings, and must be considered separately. The first has, unquestionably, very much to recommend it. It is desirable, in the highest degree, that if the mines in question are of such extent and value as they are, for reasons apparently good, believed to be, the fact should be established as unmistakably as possible, at the earliest possible moment. If the Government has confidence in its mineral resources, we do not see why it would not be doing a patriotic and perfectly legitimate thing in recommending to the Assembly the appropriation of a reasonable sum for making the required tests, and in pushing forward the investigations with all speed. To be able to satisfy interested enquirers that ores so exceedingly valuable are accessible in unlimited quantities, within convenient distances, and that other necessary facilities for turning this hidden wealth to practical account abound in the same localities, would surely be rendering a most valuable service to the Province.

WITH regard to the request of the promoters of the projected "Ontario Iron and Steel Company" for public aid, in the shape of a cash bonus of two dollars per ton on the output of the proposed blast furnace, for a period of ten years, and also, as we infer from the tenor of the petition, for substantial aid in raising the capital necessary for the erection of the furnace, we cannot so easily see our way clear to approval. It is true that the bestowment of liberal appropriations from the public funds to secure the inauguration of enterprises which, when carried out, become private property and in many cases sources of great wealth and advantage to their owners, does not want for ample precedents, especially in the case of railways. But we confess that we have never been able to satisfy ourselves that full justice is done to the public tax-payer