

looked the artistic interests. Music may be taken as an example.

The time was when, to obtain a musical education, a Canadian student was obliged to go to the United States or Europe. There were but few music schools in Canada, and they but poorly equipped. Such is no longer the case. In addition to a half-dozen qualified colleges of music, or conservatories, there are a hundred or more institutions where a more or less advanced course in music is given, many of them very admirably equipped and managed. The larger conservatories, such as the Toronto, are, in some ways, not excelled in America, and within the past few years have made very marked progress. The list has recently been added to by the inauguration of a conservatory in connection with McGill University, which, with McGill's reputation for thorough work in all its departments, will mean much in the way of increased facilities for musical training. So far as the general standing of Canadians, musically, is concerned, the chief deficiency hitherto has been due to a lack of private teachers; but every new school like this of McGill's by so much increases the opportunities for teacher-training.

Another indication of Canada's progress in musical matters is the quite wonderful development within the past twenty years, and particularly within the past five years, of the manufacturing industries connected with music. The piano trade in Canada, for example, has made strides equalled by few others, and deservedly. As good pianos are made in Canada to-day as anywhere in the world, and the increasing demand for them shows that the people's musical tastes are also being developed.

#### The Tendency to Cheapness

THE cheapening of production is one of the chief aims in modern business. New machinery is invented to save labor; capital organizes to save expense; methods are changed from time to time to meet the demand for cheaper and more rapid pro-

duction. When we speak of the great progress that has been made in recent years in the manufacturing industries, we mean partly the increase in volume of manufactured wares, but we also have in mind their increased availability because of their cheaper prices. The whole trend of modern life is in this direction. It is true that there has been an increase in certain living expenses, somewhat reducing the advantages of a cheapening in others, but the purpose and tendency remain the same.

The question arises, what effect has this cheapening tendency had on quality? Does cheaper production mean inferior products? And in answer it can only be said that in some cases it does and must, and in others it does not or need not. There was some few years ago a considerable amount of inferior manufacturing, and even yet there is reason for looking upon a low price as an indication of poor quality. Manufacturers have not yet been able to withstand the temptation of the profits from cheap-grade production, and so long as there is a demand for such products, openly sold upon their merits, there can be no greater fault found than to wish that in the interests of true economy it were not so.

As for a general cheapening of quality, that is a charge which cannot be substantiated. Better goods are made to-day, in most lines of trade, than twenty-five years ago, and in Canada the manufacturers' standard has so far improved that it is no longer necessary to buy imported goods because of the inferiority of the Canadian-made. There has been shoddy workmanship, but our workmen and leaders of industry are learning that it pays to be thorough. A man who is actively interested in the building trade said recently: "There is satisfaction in building thoroughly, in doing the best work, even if poorer would pass." When that spirit obtains among all our craftsmen, we shall have an industrialism more nearly perfect, and the tendency toward cheapness will not degenerate into a lowering of quality.