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#### TECHNICAL EDUCATION OF THE ARTISAN CLASS.

It is only recently that Canada has become to any considerable extent a manufacturing country, and consequently the value of technical education in matters connected with manufacturing is little understood or appreciated.

It is, however, a matter of very great importance to the well-being of the whole country, that as our manufacturing industries increase, practical scientific instruction should be provided for those who are to be employed in them.

This cannot be accomplished by the existing system of public instruction, excellent as it undoubtedly is for general purposes. It is a special work, and will require the application of special means for its accomplishment.

A system of instruction, intended to meet this want, has been in force in the Mother Country for a number of years, which seems to work very satisfactorily, and might, with some slight modifications, be adopted with great advantage here.

The principal features of that system may be thus described: There is a department of the British Government known as the Science and Arts Department, organized for the express purpose of encouraging and promoting instruction in Science and Art, both theoretical and practical. In cities, towns, and other districts, when considered desirable, classes are formed under the direction and control of the Science and Art Department acting through local committees.

The duties of these committees are to organize the schools, engage teachers, and generally superintend the management of the schools; to pay the salaries of the teachers, rent of rooms, and all other incidental ex-

penses connected with the organization of these schools. A sum of money is voted annually by Parliament, and distributed among the schools according to the results as determined by the examinations at the close of the season.

The Schools are opened in November and closed about the end of March, the classes meeting in the evening from seven to nine o'clock. The teachers are usually selected from men who are actively engaged in practical scientific employments, such as those in which instruction is to be given. They are generally men occupying prominent positions among the workmen, such as managers, draughtsmen, foremen, or even workmen who have obtained certificates of qualification to teach, thus combining all the advantages of practical and theoretical instruction in the same teachers.

A staff of Government Inspectors are employed to visit the schools to see that they are properly conducted and working to advantage. They inspect the work done, both as to quantity and quality, and send their reports to the Department in London.

At the close of the season the registers of attendance, etc., are all returned to London, and the examinations begin. They are of three grades—Elementary, Advanced, and Honours, and each grade has two classes—1st. and 2nd.

The papers are examined by professors appointed by the Government, and they report the result of the examinations to the Department in London.

The local committee then make a claim upon the appropriation, or money voted by Parliament, for a sum corresponding to the results of the examinations, a first-class allowance being £2, a certificate, and a Queen's prize, while a second-class secures £1 and a certificate.

The moneys so received are applied in payment of teachers' salaries, and other incidental expenses connected with the organization and maintenance of these schools.

These payments constitute the whole of the Government assistance to the Committees, and the certificates are the only compensation to the students, generally.

Scholarships for general excellence are sometimes granted to students who show exceptional ability, with a view to assisting their further progress toward