

# SCIENTIFIC CANADIAN

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#### NOTE AND COMMENT.



It is with great pleasure that we see the growth of interest in England in trade education. The spread of the movement for superior technical instruction has induced Lord ROSEBERY, Sir JOHN LUBBOCK, M.P., Mr. T. BURT, M.P., Mr. ASHTON DILKE, M.P., and other gentlemen to take the initiative in an attempt to reorganize the Trades' Guild of Learning on a larger basis. In a circular inviting attendance at a public meeting which was to be held on August 8, they propose that the Guild shall undertake, as a regular part of its work, to provide lectures on the history of

the higher branches of industry, and the principles of art or science underlying them; and they point to the lectures on House Decoration which Mr. WILLIAM MORRIS delivered for the Guild as an example of the kind of information they desire to impart. Although these objects are of a highly useful character, Lord ROSEBERY and his colleagues do not propose to limit the movement to them. They intend to arrange for the delivery of lectures on subjects of more general interest; to form classes for the systematic instruction of working men; and to invite the co-operation of the trades societies in the educational portion of their work. The Guild, although dependent upon the contributions of a very few public-spirited persons, has not been inactive during the last few years; and indeed its lectures in the winter months have been attended by many thousands of the artisan population of London. If the employers of skilled labour come forward, as they are now invited to do, with more substantial aid than they have yet rendered to the association, there is no reason why the sphere of its operations should not be both largely and beneficially extended. The lesson which is taught by this movement is one which should not be lost upon us upon this side. The demands for special technical instruction in the mechanical trades are taking distinct form, and before long will call for a movement in the direction of the English one.

THE results of the census as published are sufficiently encouraging, all things considered. The percentage of increase throughout the country has been 18.02 per cent. in the last ten years, as against 15 per cent. in the ten years preceding. Comparison with the rate of increase in the States shows at first sight a large difference between our 18 and their 30 per cent., but the fact is that the increase of our neighbours' population is due in the main to the opening out of vast fields for colonization in the West. Our own great western prairies are only now being made accessible to immigration, and another ten years may show a great difference in that direction. Meanwhile if we compare our increase with that of the New England States, we find that the five older Provinces of Canada are about on a par with these States, 14.55 against 15, while Ontario shows a growth of 3 per cent. more than New England, and scarcely less than that of the Middle States of the Union.

The increase in population in the cities of Canada is as follows:—

	1871.	1881.	Increase.	p. c.
Montreal.....	107,225	140,682	33,457	31
Toronto.....	56,092	86,445	30,353	55½
London.....	15,326	19,763	3,937	25
Ottawa.....	21,545	27,417	5,837	27
Hamilton.....	26,716	35,866	9,241	34
Kingston.....	12,407	14,093	1,686	14
Quebec.....	59,699	62,447	2,748	4½
Halifax.....	29,582	36,102	6,520	22
St. John.....	28,805	26,128	2,677	9

The loss in St. John is, of course, to be attributed to the destruction of so large an area by the conflagration of 1877. Meanwhile Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton show, as might be expected, the largest increase, Montreal the largest in actual numbers, but the western cities a greater growth in proportion to their size. As we have said, considering that, of the ten years included in the census, five were years of great commercial depression, in which the country may be almost said to have stood still, emigration being balanced against exodus, the result is fully as satisfactory as could have been expected; while the close approximation of it to popular expectation is a good guarantee of the accuracy of the figures given.