

TRAINING FOR INDUSTRIAL LIFE.

By MR. CLARKSON JAMES, SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, TORONTO.

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the Central Railway and Engineering Club of Canada:—

I am deeply sensible of the honor you have done me by extending to me so courteous an invitation to say a few words to the members of your Association on this occasion. The subject upon which I wish to speak is:—

“TRAINING FOR INDUSTRIAL LIFE.”

This subject may, at first thought, strike you as possibly a rather dry one for such an occasion. But, when you consider the nature of your own particular avocations, and recall the high order of expert technical knowledge so necessary to a proper discharge of your duties, possibly, after all, my subject may not be uninteresting.

I will not attempt to weary you with an explanation of the intricacies of the Educational System controlled by the Department with which I am officially connected; neither do I desire to convey the impression that any remarks or statements which I may make have any official significance whatever. I simply desire to give you my own thought as a humble member of that vast army of Canadians whose greatest desire is to see our beloved country well up in the front rank with the other nations of the world.

It will, however, be necessary to make some reference to those branches of instruction which lead up to our subjects to be found in the curriculum of many of the public schools in this Province:

MANUAL TRAINING.

Considerable attention has been given by those interested in up-to-date educational methods to the subject of Manual Training. A great many persons formerly held erroneous views regarding the object to be gained by the establishment of Manual Training Schools. The introduction of subjects of an industrial character into the public school course also met with considerable opposition. It is even now frequently assumed that the principal object to be gained is the training of boys and girls for different occupations. Impressions have also been created, that the sole aim and purpose is to turn out pupils who may be skilled in the work of different trades. It should be understood, however, that the purpose of Manual Training is not to prepare pupils to become skilled mechanics or artisans, but to receive those educating influences which will