

Technical Education and the State.

A little consideration of the conditions of modern life will show that economy in the production of raw material, its conversion into useful form and the cheap and quick distribution of substance and intelligence are the prime requirements of our present civilization and without which nineteenth century culture would lapse into mediaeval barbarism. Most of us also know the part America has played in the solution of these problems. Yet industrial and technical education in America can not for a moment be compared with such training in Germany for example. How then are we to explain America's industrial prominence? Evidently the explanation is to be found in her recent splendid outburst of reserve power—power drawn from an Anglo Saxon ancestry and developed by two centuries of contact with the new conditions of a new continent, and which excited to incandescent heat by the Civil war has in the last thirty years spent itself in those marvelous achievements for minimizing labor that give a brilliancy to the close of this century not before known. But this reserve power can not last indefinitely nor can any artificial stimulet be permanent. We glory in the genius of an Edison but let us not be lulled into a sense of security by those who tell us that "Yankee ingenuity" will ever be a match for the industrial armies of Europe, trained as they are in her polytechnicums and armed with all that experience and science teach. The successful sally of a partisan leader may be brilliant but it counts for nothing as against the measured tread of well trained troops. If it is believed that America does not feel the effect of the world's competition the last four years confute it, and now as perhaps never before in this state and in the country at large the problem of meeting such competition is felt. Laying aside the various infantile nostrums sometimes proposed, all thinking persons agree that the final and effective method is in education. But since the competition is an industrial one it must be met by an education shaped to the desired end. England which so long has held to the old apprenticeship system is awakening to the necessities of the new conditions and the graduates of her recently established technical schools are instilling new life into her industries. Even Cambridge has added a fully equipped engineering laboratory under the able direction of Professor Ewing.

What is true of a section possessing a diversified industrial interest is doubly true of a trans Missouri state like Nebraska where a single hot wind may obliterate the efforts of twelve months of labor and just because the interests of the state are to-day so largely agricultural does it become those who have her welfare most at heart to make a strong patient effort to educate her sons along lines tending to diversify such interest.

Nor must it be supposed because Nebraska is poor in deposits of carbon that manufactories can not be successfully established here. Recent im-

provements in power machinery have reduced the power item to a small percent of operating expenses in many lines and the water power of the state is by no means small. That the above considerations are not new to the people of the state is evinced by the fact that about one sixth of all the regular undergraduate male students in the university are registered for one of the two technical courses offered, showing a demand for technical work probably not paralleled by any similar institution. Given adequate facilities for technical instruction and the same class of young men as are now in our engineering courses, no fear need be felt for the industrial future of the state. Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for the request to say something on technical education at this time I am, &c. R. B. OWENS

Charter Day.

Charter day since the twentyfifth anniversary in 1894, has been the gala day of the university. This year is to be no exception. The best thing is to be the charter day oration by President Franklin Carter of Williams college. His address will take place at the Lansing Tuesday evening on "Thoughts on University Training." Every building on the campus will be thrown open to the public. Every department is preparing to make special exhibits. The electrical display will probably be the most novel. The society of electrical engineers has always made a fine showing and this year it has labored longer and tried harder than ever before, and therefore the display is expected to be very elaborate and complete.

The fairy school is to be open for inspection. The battalion will be inspected by Gov. Holcomb and staff. The Pershing Rifles will put up an exhibition drill and the gymnasium exhibition will be given in the armory. The Phi Beta Kappa will give a reception to President Carter at the Chancellor's residence Tuesday Morning. New members will be welcomed. Monday evening reception will be given to the members of the legislature in the library building by the regents the Chancellor and the faculty.

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