

PROGRESS IN EDUCATION.

Next to physical improvement of the people in this process of reconstruction comes their intellectual improvement; in fact, from the economic point of view, the latter may well be the more important. Brains rather than brute strength are what in our days make increased production possible by co-ordinating effectively the tasks of labour, and effectively using capital to further the work of production. The economic prosperity of Scotland was eighty years ago attributed by Macaulay to the excellence of the Scottish educational system, and his conclusion has since become a commonplace.

As Scottish experience shows, there can be no greater error than the assumption that only what we ordinarily call vocational education is economically productive. The highly cultural, highly intellectual Scottish education of the nineteenth century made Scotsmen the industrial as well as the intellectual leaders of the world. Canada also, which has been called the Scotland of America, enjoys a high reputation abroad as well as at home, for the excellence of its academic education.

Academic education, however, is not suited, at least in its higher grades, to the masses of the people, nor does it yield as speedy dividends on investment as does vocational education. The vocational education given this year to a boy of 15 or 16 may easily be bearing fruit next year in his increased productivity in actual industrial life. At a time like the present, these immediate results are what are needed.

DOMINION ASSISTANCE TO VOCATIONAL EDUCATION.

While educational administration is a matter for the provinces, the Dominion Government, recognizing the desirability of supplementing the Provincial funds available for such purposes, secured even before the war the passage of the Agricultural Instruction Act (3 Geo. V., c. 5), under which sums aggregating \$10,000,000 were to be paid over to the provinces within the succeeding ten years for the purpose of aiding and advancing the farming industry by instruction in agriculture, including under this head the work carried on by the veterinary colleges. During recent years the grant for this purpose has amounted to \$1,100,000 per annum, the allocation of which among the provinces in 1920-21 is given on page 259 of this edition of the Year Book.

In 1919, the Dominion Government decided to assist the provinces in vocational education for others than agriculturists. By the Technical Education Act (9-10 Geo. V., c. 73), aid to the provinces was provided for promoting and assisting technical education in Canada by annual grants commencing at \$700,000 and aggregating \$10,000,000 within ten years. Out of the annual grant each province is to receive \$10,000, while the balance is to be divided