

through for lack of an initial grant; there are also the recommendations of the Royal Commission on fruit-growing, which seem no nearer realisation; as an advisory body the Board of Agriculture must get itself discredited unless it possesses some machinery for investigation.

#### THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.

THE very generous provision recently made by the province of Ontario for the financial support of the University of Toronto, as well as the very important changes brought about last year in the constitution of the latter, are of more than local interest, and therefore the following account may be of service to those who watch the development of the colonial universities.

This university, which was founded by Royal Charter in 1827 and began teaching in 1843, had as its original endowment 225,000 acres of Crown lands in the province of Upper Canada, now Ontario, and the amount realised from the sale of these lands gave, with the tuition fees, all the revenue the university had until 1897, when the Legislature granted it 1400*l.* a year and 132,000 acres of wild lands within the unsettled portions of the province. In 1901 the Legislature further undertook to pay the annual charge of the departments of physics, chemistry, and mineralogy and geology. This latter addition to the resources of the university was rendered necessary by the gradual decrease in the revenue from the endowment and by the great increase in the number of students in attendance, taxing the energies of the teaching staff and the accommodation of the classrooms and laboratories to the utmost. Until 1906 the revenues were spent in supporting two faculties, arts and medicine, as the annual budget of the School of Practical Science (engineering and technical science generally) was met directly out of the provincial treasury.

This provision of 1901 met the situation for about three years, but in 1905 the need of additional laboratories and other buildings, as well as the continually increasing numbers of students, made the question of further financial aid a very pressing one. There was also the question of the advisability of changing the relations which hitherto existed between the State and the university. All appointments to the staff had been made by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, and, though these had been free from political taint, there was the possibility of such being dictated by considerations of party politics. It was also recognised that the constitution of the university was very cumbrous and unadapted for the work it had to do.

The urgent aspect of the situation led the newly installed Whitney Administration to appoint a Royal Commission to examine and report upon the constitution of the university and its constituent colleges and faculties. The commission was a very representative one, and from the first it earnestly set about its task, which was recognised to be a difficult one. It visited the larger American universities, conferred with their presidents and others who could furnish any aid in the form of advice, and patiently heard the views of the staffs of the various colleges and faculties. This commission also took up the financial problem of the maintenance of the university.

The results of their labours were presented in the form of a report to the Lieutenant-Governor of the province in March of last year, and at the same time the commission drafted a bill for introduction into the Legislature to embody, in the form of an Act, the

changes which were thought advisable in the constitution. The suggested changes practically involved re-casting the constitution. The Act was accepted by both sides of the Legislature, and only minor modifications were made in its passage through the House.

Some of the changes made were sweeping. The control of the university was vested in a board of governors, twenty in number, eighteen appointed by the Crown, one the chancellor, elected by the graduates, and one the president, appointed by the board. This board was given the management of the endowment and income, but it can make no appointment to the teaching staff except on the recommendation of the president, on whom now devolves the responsibility for the staff of the university. By the Act the School of Practical Science was made an integral part of the university, and its finances were made subject to the control of the board of governors.

By far the most important result of the Royal Commission's labours, and which was embodied in the Act of the Legislature, ensures to the university henceforth adequate financial support. The provision to this end consisted in the granting to the university each year one-half of the annual average amount of the revenues derived by the province from succession duties or death duties, the annual average to be based on the receipts of the preceding three years. The total amount of these duties for the years 1903-4-5 was 304,800*l.*, or annually 101,600*l.* One-half of this latter sum has, as the Act directs, been paid to the university for the academic year 1906-7. As the province is growing wealthy rapidly, and consequently these succession duties are annually increasing in amount, of course the sum to be handed over annually by the province to the university will correspondingly increase. The amount to be thus given for the academic year 1907-8 will be 71,000*l.*, and it is estimated that the university will receive from this same source in 1908-9 about 100,000*l.* What it will be in a few years more cannot be approximately forecasted, but it is not unlikely that within ten years the death duties may average 300,000*l.*, of which the university would receive 150,000*l.*

As the ordinary income of the university, apart from that derived from succession duties, and apart also from interest on scholarship funds, is about 44,000*l.*, it may be seen that the total income from all sources for 1906-7 is 97,400*l.*, and for 1907-8 about 118,000*l.*, but for 1908-9 it will be about 147,000*l.* It is not at all improbable that the income of the university five years from now may be in the neighbourhood of \$1,000,000, or more than 200,000*l.*

This is a very large income, but it must be noted that the work that the university has to do is also very great. It has not to undertake instruction in agriculture, for the province already maintains a splendid College of Agriculture at Guelph for which the annual budget is about 30,000*l.* It has, however, to provide adequately for faculties of arts, medicine, applied science, and education, and the task may be gauged from the fact that there are already 2700 students in the first three faculties. It has also to do for Canada what the great American universities are doing for the United States, that is, to meet the demand for advanced teaching and for research in all departments. It is, indeed, the ambition of some to develop the university into as great a representative of learning and research as either Harvard or Johns Hopkins is, and to make it at the same time a centre for the intellectual life of the Canadian nation to be. As it is now it is the largest and wealthiest colonial university of the Empire.

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