the general benefit of industries, as the two are so closely associated.

Comparisons of data on the numbers of officials and instructors employed, students trained (where it is a teaching institution), and public money expended, when referred to a population basis, would reveal for Ontario, if space warranted their publication, similar favorable results. And it would be easy to cite other provinces and states on this continent comparing favorably with Prussia.

It is not difficult to understand why the faith in German and Prussian "greatness" in research has become so general in America, as it was the privilege of the Germans themselves, as usual, to bell the cat. In November, 1915, a debate took place in the Reichstag over the spending of 40,000,000 marks in propagandist work in the United States of America, and a socialist member asked what good they had received from it. The outlay involved liberal sums for illustrated articles on the industrial training institutions of Germany, inserted in United States illustrated journals which circulate also in Canada. While the propagandists knew the value of advertising, many who read the articles and still derive their arguments from them failed to understand that it was advertising matter. Whatever progress Germany made was due to the application of science to the industries, and no right-minded person would begrudge them peaceable success, if their international politics had been just.

It is not surprising to find that research had been along different lines in Prussia and in Ontario, their material being received here in exchange mostly for well-developed agricultural products. The war changed this, and in a propaganda of the manufacturing classes to throw the burden of research upon the public, paid for out of the public treasuries, it is well to bear in mind the reasonable plan adopted in England of granting a pound of government aid for every pound expended by private enterprise.

A. F. HUNTER

NORMAL SCHOOL BUILDING,
TORONTO

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE LONDON IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

WE learn from the London *Times* that past and present students of the Imperial College of Science and Technology at a mass meeting in the Imperial College Union, on January 29, decided, with only one dissentient, to sign a petition urging the governors of the college to take immediate steps to raise the status of the college to that of a university of technology, distinct from the University of London, and empowered to confer its own degrees in science and technology.

The petition expressed the opinion that the recognition of the Imperial College as an institution of university rank should be one of the earliest items in the program of legislative reconstruction, and that his majesty's government should give every encouragement to students who desire to devote their lives to science and technology.

Mr. Herbert Wright, one of the governors of the college and a past student, who presided, said they were concerned with the future of the students and the future status of the Imperial College of Science—matters of supreme importance not merely to themselves and those who would succeed them, but indirectly to the whole of the British Empire. The legitimate demand of the day, especially prominent in the City of London, was that there should be established a very close relationship between scientific research and industry. Furthermore, many of them held the view that no honor was too great, no distinction too high, for students who, by the application of scientific principles to the problems of daily life, increased the wealth and power of the British Empire, and added to the grand total of this world's happiness. Industrial concerns in London were strongly in favor of giving full encouragement and the highest recognition to men and women who devoted their lives to scientific and industrial research. They could rest assured that this college had been, and was still, the principal source of supply of technologists to those in charge of industry in the City of London.

Mr H. Burnie, chairman of the organizing Committee, reported that the Royal School of Mines Old Students' Association had passed a resolution giving support to the proposal. The chairman then formally moved that the petition be signed and forwarded to the governors of the college. Captain E. G. Lawford, in seconding the resolution, declared that the time had come when it was absolutely impossible for the Imperial College to carry on exactly as it was now. The reconstruction of London University had been approved, and would be undertaken very shortly; and in that reconstruction the Imperial College was bound to become involved. This would be disastrous to the college. The Imperial College was now standing on the brink of an upheaval, and unless a very strong line was taken it was bound to lose its own identity. By absorption, the college would lose control of its own funds—and of its syllabus, and of its identity as the Imperial College.

CLASSIFICATION OF LANDS BY THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SECRETARY LANE reports that definite progress was made in the month of January, 1919, in the classification of lands effected by the Geological Survey of the Interior Department. The principal action affecting mineral lands was the restoration of somewhat more than 773,000 acres in North Dakota. These lands lie in the lignite area of that state and the government still owns coal in only a relatively small proportion of those restored. As to this proportion, the restoration will permit the purchase of these lands or of the coal within them at prices of $10 and $20 per acre.

A portion of the results of last summer's field work in the examination of the question of irrigability of western lands appears in orders approved during January which designated somewhat more than 1,000,000 acres for entry under the so-called enlarged-homestead act, the principal requirement under this act being that the lands shall be nonirrigable. The areas designated by states appear in the following table:

	Acres
Idaho	10,840
Montana	17,876
Oregon	39,720
South Dakota	211,331
Wyoming	726,131
Total	1,005,898

Similar progress was manifested during January in rendering lands available for entry in tracts of 640 acres each under the stock-raising homestead law. Somewhat more than 940,000 acres were designated during the month under this act. These lands are distributed as indicated in the table below:

	Acres
Arizona	47,020
California	97,332
Colorado	91,097
Kansas	17,100
New Mexico	392,320
Oklahoma	4,998
Oregon	57,500
Wyoming	234,050
Total	941,417

The total area thus far designated by the secretary for entry under the stockraising homestead act is now a little more than 13,500,000 acres. This work has been accomplished in the slightly more than 19 months since Congress first made provision for the administration of the stock-raising homestead act. After that provision was made, the force for the classifications had to be organized, the principles of classification determined, the lands examined, decisions reached as to their character, and the orders of designation issued.

CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS

THE United States Civil Service Commission announces open competitive examinations for scientific positions as follows:

Department of the Interior: Geological Survey: Geologic aid, March 12–13, $90 a month to $1,440 a year; assistant geologist, March 12–13, $1,500 to $1,800 a year. Indian Service: Oil and gas inspector, March 25, $1,500 to $1,800 a year. Public Health Service; Statistical clerk, March 26, $1,000 to $1,800 a year. Patent Office: Assistant ex-