Proposition That Congress Endow a National Institute

## ENOUGH GOOD SCHOOLS HERE

The Hard Headed Man of Affairs Would Wonder Why Their Professions Should be Subsidized in Preference to a Dozen Others.

"home culture of arts." The notion ers. seems to be that long before the big The incentive of competition with tion with the street car company there ought to be lodged the corner stone of "America's temples of arts." Now, in the language of the day, What's the use? If Congress could

not a million possible uses for every dollar that is contributed by the American people through taxation for the there might be a feeble excuse for trying to induce Uncle Sam to duplicate at Washington facilities for education which already exist elsewhere. Yet, even then, as a matter of cold hard fact, many people would ask why the government should undertake to train musicians and paintshould undertake to prepare butchers, and bakers, bricklayers and engine painters are very useful and perfectothers.

on a large scale.?

Take the example of musical inreasons has been the leading Amerihave thus far supported the most imand well equipped plants. Even if it abroad are spending \$14,400,000 a year they are not there for lack of as good instruction in their own country but either because they have already acquired the elements of their professions here and want the benefit of the broadening influence of residence and travel abroad, or because, like many Americans, they are not yet fully aware that the ground work can be laid as well in the United is very anxious to learn to draw in ably the best equipped plant of any States as in any country of the world. Neither is it true, as the argument for a congressional appropriation has appeared to imply, that if Congress should tomorrow start up an institute of music and art, all the exile band York, Boston, Philadelphia and Chicof American students in Paris, Leipsic, Berlin and Milan would straightway quit the intolerable barracks in which they are housed, pawn the few remaining clothes in their gripsack sons who are anxious to do someand engage steerage passage to take thing for the cause of American art advantage of the instruction offered could hardly urge more than this for the first time by Uncle Sam. The practical business of learning to European boarding house keepers draw-of constructing a man who is

nothing of opportunities offered in and more our future painters, sculp-New York, Chicago, Cincinati and tors and illustrators get their start other centres, are almost countless here under comfortable conditions concrete reasons why such a national and later on go over yonder for the conservatory as has been proposed sake of becoming familar with the art would be superfluous. It is hard to galleries of the old world. see what kind of advanced work could | Now considering American tradi- & Ralston's.

of these fourteen millions.

be offered at Washington under governmental auspices which a thoroughly well equipped conservatory, endowed by individuals and conducted as a public trust, cannot undertake to do. The New England city offers to students who prefer to carry on their musical studies in an American community a musical atmosphere which is as real as that of any European capital. They are constantly assisted in appreciation of good music by the presence of a symphony orchestra, generally acknowledged to be the best in American and to have no superior in Europe. They have access to the performances of many other musical organizations giving concerts through the season. All the great foreign musicians sooner or BOSTON, Feb. 29.-Let us have a later visit America, and Boston is plain talk about the proposition to always one of the first cities in their create an "Institute of Music and itinerary. The talented have inter-Art" at Washington by means of a course with and instruction from emigovernmental appropriation. Let us nent American composers, of whom discard all cant and humbug about more are residents of Boston and the soul values. We won't spell art with neighborhood than of perhaps any a capital A or pretend to think that other American city-such writers of the 40,000 Americans who are said to music as George W. Chadwick, direcbe studying piano and singing and tor of the New England Conservatory painting abroad are all of them in- of Music, Frederick S. Converse, Mrs. spired youth "possessing genius and H. H. A. Beach, Arthur Foote, FOR RENT-Furnished rooms, also the soul for art and music." Enough Madame Helen Hopekirk and many that a project is now afoot, with how more. These are composers whose serious support it would be hard to reputation is now so far assured that change. say, to get Congress to endow at the only the ignorant suppose all good national capital an institution for the musicians in America to be foreign-

ditch at Panama has been opened or strong fellow students is just as likely stairs. Secretary Loeb has accepted his posi- to be present in an American city as abroad. Despite the situation of Boston in the extreme northeastern corner of the country, its leading music school, the oldest of its kind in the United States, the New England create money by fiat, if there were Conservatory of Music, draws more than almost any other institution for higher education in New England upon a national and international supports of their national institutions, clientele. It has graduate as well as undergraduate courses and annually receives hundreds who have already made their start in their local conservatories or under private teachers.

Good technical preparation is about

all that any music school can undertake. It has been asserted in connection with this campaign for a national ers to earn a living any more than it institute of music and art at Washington that "in this country of ours FOR SALE-ONE-QUARTER OR many a genius is born and dies withdrivers, doctors and lawyers for their out ever being heard of, and all this respective callings. Musicians and because the atmosphere here is not 100 rooms and always engaged 'way conducive to the development of his ahead. ly reputable members of society, but talents." Experience of the past cenwonder why their professions should sand students you will never find FOR SALE-THE FURNITURE be subsidized in preference to a dozen more than a very few who can be called geniuses. The percentage of always full; low rent. The whole project for creating the exceptionally gifted is certainly as "Americans's Temple of Arts" at high in America schools as abroad. Washington seems to start on the A few music students, for example, false assumption that nothing is be- are manifestly destined to have reing done in this country for students markable professional careers. Most of the musical and graphic arts; are young persons of modest talent whereas, as every well informed per- who will find some way of making a son ought to know, a great deal has living if they are thoroughly trained been done and is being done for Some will sing in churches; some will them through private munificence and teach; some will tune pianos. In enterprise. A natural question to ask their various callings they will assent, holstering and cabinet work nicely is What's the good of putting on the no doubt, to the general ideas of the and neatly done. Furniture of all government a burden of doing what promoters of the scheme of a national has already been accomplished well conservatory of music and art, even 164 8th St., bet. Coml. and Duane Sts. though they have not the remarkable flow of language enabling them to struction in Boston, which for many assers that "Music is the sublime speech of the soul, the higher educacan center of musical education for tion, the better life. Its effects are many years past, or of art instruction refining. Music sets sweetly the joys in New York and Chicago, which and happiness of life; it takes from sorrows half their burdens and robs endow classical colleges and technical portant schools of drawing and paint- anguish of its keenist sting. It hails schools. Very few people have any in the Western Hemisphere.. The the seasons and promotes love of grudge against the muses. Musical schools in these and other cities have country and home. It is the univerbecome big affairs, with expensive sal language of the world and speaks friends in this country. More than a so that every ear can understand. It quarter of a century ago Reuben is true that 40,000 American sturents is the one thing that carries the man nearer to God." In classic Bostonese

An exactly similar line of argument can be made regarding present day facilities for teaching the fine arts. There is no apparent good reason other wealthy patrons of art and why the national government should music have contributed to the resupply ambitious art students with plumb lines and charcoal sticks and pay for their instruction. If anybody national importance, with unquestion-Washington, there is a nice little art school connected with the Corcoran Gallery. Excellent schools for the study of drawing, painting, modelling and design are conducted in New ago, St. Louis and many other American cities. Some of them are free, others practically so. The most exalted patriotism on the part of perwould probably continue to get a few possible on a sheet of charcoal paper -can be done in this country just In the city of Boston alone, to say about as well ass in Paris, and more

language, that's going some.

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tions and conditions, the real argu ment to make at this time in behalf of music and art is simply that they ought to continue to get their share from the individuals who generously education has not been without its Springer of Cincinnati gave generously towards the establishment of a music school. In New York James Loeb has been munificent in the endowment of the musical arts. In Boston Eben D. Jordan and a number of sources of the Conservatory and enabled it to become an institution of conservatory in the world.

The habit, in truth, of considering the needs of schools of music and art which are already partially endowed but whose usefulness can be increased by more funds, as by the creation of specific professorships, is one which will accomplish more for the cause of fine art in America than any plan of annual appropriations from Congress for the support of a school which would simply compete with good schools, already well established. It has been abundantly shown that private enterprise in this country, if Scandinavian-American Savings Bank properly appealed to, will assist artistic undertakings, and common-sense would dictate that Congress had best 307 Astoria Savings Bank Building devote its funds to doing the useful things which individuals cannot or will not do.

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