

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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EDUCATION REORGANIZATION

For many years the problem of the amalgamation of the various colleges in the Maritime Provinces into one central university has been a more or less vital issue and a fresh impetus has been given the whole project of late due to two causes. First: the merely partial success of "drives" for increased financial support and endowment and second: the report of a commission of the Carnegie Foundation for the advancement of teaching on "Education in the Maritime Provinces of Canada." This report, which is now made public, has been under consideration by the boards and denominations of the colleges concerned and as it has the merit of being an absolutely disinterested consideration of all the issues involved by outside authorities it has had a profound influence in many quarters which previously would not consider the question of amalgamation or confederation at all.

The report, which is undoubtedly a valuable contribution to the solution of our educational problems is not above criticism. There are several serious inconsistencies. The tone is too frequently doctrinaire. Some of the educational methods about which there is a justifiable difference of opinion, are considered settled. Notwithstanding a definite statement to the contrary, there is an "Americanization" attitude all through. The standards of comparison are American. The methods of organization in education desired seem to be American. The ideal of the commission in its suggestion is in line American.

However, in spite of these defects, there is food for very serious thought on our educational needs. The members of the commission pay several splendid compliments to our people and some of our educational institutions. They tell us that our racial stock "is as good as can be found." "The spirit and character of the work done in the high schools is impressive. Four good institutions were visited in the provinces, two of them in Nova Scotia rather thoroughly. In these the scholarship of the teachers was apparently excellent and their instruction was notable for its clarity and force. The students were extraordinarily attentive and industrious: the effects of hard, accurate painstaking drill were everywhere evident. The program of studies is less elaborate than in the United States" and "there is much greater thoroughness, closer thinking, more confident knowledge and more wholesome seriousness on the part of both student and teacher."

The same investigators found our students better trained in Mathematics, in Latin, in History and English, but defective in scientific training, in economics and in social and political science. In regard to the last two it is quite questionable as to their place in a high school curriculum. There are other compliments to our educational achievements, but there are several rather humiliating criticisms. It is idle to seek to minimize their force or value. From many sources the same criticisms have come. And this most unfortunate unanimity is our condemnation. These criticisms touch the qualifications and pay of primary teachers. The equipment of our high schools and universities and the conditions of entrance into the lower grades of university work. The force of these criticisms shows that the amalgamation of the Maritime Colleges and Universities is necessary for the prosecution of newer studies and for research work. A combination of teaching staffs and financial resources would easily attain this. In

all our colleges there is not a single professional librarian and the library equipment is so meagre that even all the libraries of all the colleges were put into one, real research work would still be precluded.

The admission conditions to the universities are seriously defective. Some matriculants enter with even four "conditions" out of the eight subjects required and preparatory work has to be provided for them in the university: work that should be done and only done in the high schools. A rigorous policy of a "clean and clear" admission certificate is a vital necessity, but it is a serious handicap to the deserving student who is not within reach either through lack of money or distance from a good high school.

The system in our own province gets a rather unenviable notice in the report. In the matter of financial support of education we read that "Nova Scotia pays less per pupil in average daily attendance than any other Canadian province, except Prince Edward Island which is notoriously backward." All our critics are agreed on this. And as the report contends, you cannot have good teachers unless they are decently paid and good teachers are essential for the raising of the standard of our public primary schools.

Prince of Wales College is classified as really a secondary school covering Grades ten and twelve, and the training they receive seems to be justified by results later on. St. Dunstan's University does not escape the eagle eyes of these critics. "It occupies 300 acres of beautiful land. It conducts high school and college courses. Its class rooms and recreation rooms are bare of equipment. There is no scientific apparatus. There is a small library that appears to be used only by the Priests." And so on. The suggestion is made that "in the midst of a farming community the school has a wonderful chance to teach agriculture but this it has not as yet undertaken."

And in the next paragraph we read: "there is also at Charlottetown a recently established agricultural and technical school that gives short courses in agriculture." In a report which seeks to obviate overlapping why suggest that St. Dunstan's do what another institution is doing?

We have in our three provinces we are told, six "Universities," Dalhousie, Kings' Acadia, St. Francis Xavier, Mount Allison and New Brunswick, The Agricultural College at Truro; the Nova Scotia Technical College, and several other colleges which are merely boy's schools of a junior college grade.

The universities, with the exception of Dalhousie, and in a smaller degree, St. Francis Xavier, the commission considers are more properly collegiate institutes. To get better educational results in the higher branches of learning the commissioners suggest a single Maritime University. Dalhousie is suggested as a rallying centre and the methods suggested are three. First: Differentiation of work among these institutions as they are; Second: Selection of the most suitable institution as regards location, etc.; Third: Confederation. This last seems to have the weight of opinion in its favor. It is a modification of the Toronto plan which has worked fairly well.

The appeal of a good central university close at hand is a strong one. Our critics tell us "our youth has no superior in natural equipment: he deserves a thorough modern education that will carry its own conviction in any part of the American continent, and it will measurably deepen his love, and

Notes By The Way

Miss Agnes McPhail enjoys the distinction of being the first and only woman who has been elected to the Canadian Parliament. It is no inconsiderable privilege to have been chosen as the representative of the people in South East Grey, Ontario, and at the same time to become in some sort the spokeswoman for the millions of other Canadian women who reside beyond the bounds of that favored electoral division. Moreover it is to be noted that Miss McPhail holds her seat by choice of the Progressive party. Neither the Conservative, Liberal nor Labor parties elected a feminine standard bearer.

Miss McPhail, M.P., has been frequently heard from in Parliament as well as outside of that great Assembly since the session began. Without keeping actual count we venture to say that she has addressed the House more frequently than all the four members from Prince Edward Island taken together. Proportionately she has made South East Grey famous in the land. People are saying that that hitherto unnoted constituency has leaped suddenly into the limelight by choosing a woman representative. Certain it is that one woman's voice has made her electoral district more distinguished than the four silent male voting machines we sent to Ottawa have made Prince Edward Island.

The lady member has never bored the House with long speeches, as is too often the case with voluble masculine members. Six ten-minute speeches, short and snappy, make a better showing in the House, in Hansard, or in the newspapers than one long labored oration. People want to hear from their representatives in Parliament one in a while, if only to know that they are "on the job" and not loafing. In this our Island representatives have failed miserably during the current session. They have been outdone by a woman, who has proved that one petticoat from South East Grey wins more attention and distinction in Parliament than four pairs of trousers from Prince Edward Island.

Miss McPhail has been apparently taking stock of her fellow members in the House; noting how slack they are in their attendance, not half of them in their seats half the time, often 200 out of 235 absent from the proceedings, watching them as they come and go, only to see more of them turn in to one or other of the fashionable clubs than going to the House, notes that of those who go to the House more are to be found in the smoking room engaged in pastimes than to be found in the Legislative Chamber and now an Ottawa telegram states that "it is rumored" that she is devising ways and means whereby she can move a resolution to reduce the sessional indemnity from \$4,000 to \$3,500 per session.

It may seem strange that no such rumor has so far reached the public in regard to any one of the 234 masculine members of the House, or any one of the nearly 100 masculine Senators. The cost of living is coming down. That was the assigned reason for the big indemnity to Members and Senators. Salaries and wages in all other than legislative employments have been reduced. There has been much talk in Parliament of the urgent need of economy. But of over 300 masculine members of the two Houses not one appears to have given a thought to that most important, vital and unselfish economy which begins at home—the legislative Jerusalem, so to speak. But a woman has thought of it and is thinking about it.

It was open to any one of our four members to have thought of this and to have made a name for himself and to have done honor to his province by moving in the matter. Not one of them has opened his mouth to do so. And again South East Grey proves itself bigger than Prince Edward Island and the four trousered representatives. Not that Miss McPhail is likely to succeed. She will find it hard to devise means to reduce the indemnity to members in face of a hostile majority who want to selfishly retain what not one in ten of the Members or Senators honestly earn. Some point of order may be raised as in our own local House, or if not that other measure will be resorted to. Selfishness rules the roost in Ottawa against reason or rhyme and professed economy is but a hypocritical sham.

We are not greatly enamored with the idea of sending many women to Parliament at least until the feminine portion of the electorate has been more thoroughly educated in public affairs, a matter which will yet require time. Nor are we in sympathy with class representation and class legislation which forms the basis of the so-called Progressive party to which Miss McPhail belongs. There is no one of the three larger parties whose supporters have been so greatly disappointed during the present session as the Progressives. Collectively, the party has proved to be so far a stupendous failure. But in electing a woman representative it has accomplished something. It has made South East Grey bigger, looming larger in the public eye than Prince Edward Island. Intellectually she may not be very great or very wise but she has quite overshadowed four men who represent an entire Province in the Federal Parliament.

Daily Selections for Guardian Readers

From the W. S. Louson collection

THE COMMON TOUCH

By Edgar A. Guest

I would not be wise—so very wise That I must sneer at simple songs and deeds And let the glare of wisdom blind my eyes. To humble people and their humble needs. I would not care to climb so high that I could never hear the children at their play. Could only see the people passing by. Yet never hear the cheering words they say. I would not know too much—too much to smile. At trivial errors of the heart and hand. Nor be too proud to play the friend to the while. And cease to help and know and understand. I would not care to sit upon a throne. Or build my house upon a mount air top. Where I must dwell in glory all alone. And never friend come in or poor man stop. God grant that I may live upon this earth And face the tasks which every morning brings. And never lose the glory and the worth Of humble service and the simple things.

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DEAN OF CABLE COMPANIES DEAD

NEW YORK, June 19.—George Gray Ward, Vice-President and General Manager of the Commercial Cable Company and the Dean of Trans-Atlantic Submarine Cable Co's, died at his residence here at 6.30 p. m., Thursday, after an illness extending over a year. Mr. Ward, always active, was, until quite recently, at his desk

MAGIC BAKING POWDER advertisement with image of a tin and text: 'Guaranteed to be the purest and best baking powder possible to produce. Because of the purity and high quality of the ingredients of Magic Baking Powder its leavening qualities are perfect and it is therefore economical.'

controlling the organizations which developed under his management since 1884, i. e., the Commercial Cable Company, owning and operating five trans-Atlantic cables to Great Britain, the Commercial Cable Company of Cuba, New York and Havana, Cuba, the Commercial Pacific Cable Company, operating a cable from San Francisco to the Hawaiian Islands, Gorge Gray Ward, one of the three ships recently launched by the Commercial Cable Company, is now in commission and will operate out of Charlottetown, which will be her headquarters. Mr. Ward was a Director of the Halifax and Bermuda's Cable Co. and the Direct West Indies Cable Co., operating from Halifax to Bermuda and Jamaica.

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