

Some Notes on a Proposed Course of Social Studies at McGill.

There is no place in Canada where social and economic conditions are so various and unique as in Montreal and in this Province. The juxtaposition of the English and French communities and the sprinkling of other races along the borderline between them offers a pattern in social studies which is peculiar to this country. Why has it succeeded? Is it of any mutual advantage to the two communities? ^{ich} Who will win out in the end, industrial progress or fecundity? No really critical, significant study has ever been made of this problem.

There are also a number of town and suburban communities in this Province which are quite unique in their way. In some of them the social and economic history of the last three centuries may be read as clearly today as when it was written. Small holdings and primitive domestic economies on the one hand and large industrial institutions on the other may be found side by side in the same community. The study of a few typical examples of these communities ought to be of some value and of great interest to students in social and economic science.

I have read over the Yale plan in outline and, with deference, I think the plan both too vast and too vague. It seems to me to aim at setting up a new objective, a new idea, the social idea in University policy, and therefore to establish a sort of counter University within the University. I do not believe that this plan is valid. It is impossible to educate the social mind because the social mind does not exist, except through the co-operative study and enterprise of individuals. The aim of a University is not to educate society but to educate individuals who may assist worthily in the study of social and economic problems. I do not think, therefore, that the Universities at present need a new objective so much as a new leaven. All studies are studies of human relations. Language, for example, the instrument by which men communicate