

# POOR DOCUMENT M C 2 0 3 5

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1922

## LOCAL NEWS

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## UNIVERSITY FEDERATION

From an Editorial in The Gazette—The New Catholic Weekly Newspaper of Halifax

Among the thinking men of Eastern Canada no question that has arisen within the past year has awakened more deep or more anxious interest than the question of University Federation. Our own Province of Nova Scotia indeed has always been profoundly concerned in matters educational, and if the present condition of our educational system is at fault, the cause must be sought not so much in the apathy of our people as in the misdirection of their efforts. It must not be thought that the movements towards federation necessarily implies censure upon any of our existing institutions of higher education. We have learned to look with justifiable pride upon our

Catholic colleges, which, in the face of innumerable obstacles, have persevered faithfully and well. We have noted the marked progress made within the last decade of the University of St. Francis Xavier at Antigonish and we have seen it grow to a position of prominence and respect in the minds of all the people of Eastern Canada, or indeed of all Canada, regardless of denominational belief. We have often been moved to admiration by the magnificent sacrifices made by the Catholics of Eastern Nova Scotia for their own college, the outstanding example of which was the raising of an endowment fund of half a million dollars in 1920. We have observed the deep and unswerving loyalty and devotion that

were borne to that splendid institution by all who had come under the happy spell of its ennobling influence, or under the gracious charm of its ripe scholarship. And what we say of St. Francis Xavier's we might say of other Catholic colleges in Eastern Canada. We instance St. Francis Xavier's because it is the best known of them all and because it has made the most marked progress during recent years.

Problems of the Future.  
Great, however, as has been the work of our Catholic colleges in the past, it is to the present and the future that we must now look. What does the present hold and what the future promise? What are the problems of the future and how are our Catholic colleges prepared to meet them? We have said that the movement towards federation does not necessarily imply censure upon our existing institutions. But it is not censure upon a man or institution to say that someone or something better is available, and therefore if the scheme of university federation offers a more effective solution of the higher educational problems of today and tomorrow than is offered by our existing institutions we should accept that solution without hesitation and without regret.

A Federation of Equals.  
We live in an age of specialists and super-specialists, an age of fierce competition and of bitter strife. The young man setting out into life today must have the best possible equipment or he will be driven to the wall. It is true that we are all architects of fate, but if we have not the proper tools to work with we are manifestly at a disadvantage as compared to the man whose equipment is the most perfect that modern training can give. The uni-



**"The Peppin"**

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You want quality, which means good material and fine workmanship? Certainly.  
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iversity of today and tomorrow must be able to furnish that equipment or it cannot hope to prosper. All our Eastern Canadian colleges are under-endowed. None of them has sufficient financial support. None of them is able to enlarge or to improve its staff. It would like to enlarge or to add in order to meet the requirements of the time. We have in Nova Scotia five colleges preparing students for degrees in Arts. Five colleges doing practically the same work would seem to be an unnecessarily large number in a province whose population is only a half million. There must be a good deal of dissipation of energy, of duplication of equipment and buildings. Even the uneducated man would say that in unity would be strength and greater efficiency. This is precisely what the Carnegie Foundation Commissioners have said in their epic report on education in the maritime provinces.

Briefly, their suggestion is that the colleges of the maritime provinces should unite to form one central university. It is not a merger that is proposed—it is the throwing of all the colleges into a melting pot and the creating of one new institution out of the product of the pot. It is rather the planting of each college to a central point where each will continue its work under its old name, teaching every people. Much of our very best teachers, yet combining with the other constituent colleges as regards those subjects which are not controversial in the denominational sense and which are properly university subjects. It is not correct to say that this or that in-

attention will be swallowed up by some other institution. What we shall have, if the scheme becomes a reality, is a number of colleges entering into a federation as equals and continuing as equals, each with an equal voice in the management of the new university.

The Patriotic Call.  
The scheme may be considered from an educational and from a religious viewpoint. We have already briefly touched on the educational side, but there is one more phase in which this side might be considered, there is another and compelling argument to which little attention has been given and it is this: From patriotic motives alone the scheme should be accepted. It offers our great means, perhaps the only means whereby the eastern provinces of Canada may regain their lost prestige as parts of the dominion. The whole country still reels from the shock of war, is faced with a tremendous debt and with many other serious problems.

The solution of these problems requires the best brains and the best training that we have to give. Eastern Canada lags behind in the march of progress. Our resources are not adequately developed. Our people are leaving us. The immigration problem in Nova Scotia has been absorbed by the more vital problem of how to hold our own people. Much of our very best mental product leaves Nova Scotia, and why? The "Why" is, partly at any rate, that when our young men wish to pursue post-graduate work or any advanced work on special lines they have to leave Nova Scotia—they have to go away to Upper Canada or to the United States, and after observing the superior character of the educational institutions of our neighbors, they hesitate to return to a land which failed to serve them in their hour of need. Can there be any doubt that a great central institution ranking with the best on the continent, would bring about a change in these conditions? Can there be any doubt that from the scientific courses that could be followed at such a university there would go out scientific men who would remain in Eastern Canada to point out the scientific way to greater development of our latent resources, greater efficiency, to less waste? Can there be any doubt that there would follow a quickening of our whole economic life, a new interest and a new pride in our own country, a new hope in our own possibilities, with the result that instead of losing our youth in thousands every year to the United States and to the west, we should retain them here in our own land.


The Religious Viewpoint.  
From the religious viewpoint the possibilities of the scheme are incalculable. If there is religious bigotry in Nova Scotia today it should be made to perish, and the surest way of causing it to perish is the way of personal contact and personal example. Sermons and writings are as nothing compared to the example of a single sincere Catholic. The sermons are not heard where our students, adequately safeguarded, would mingle with the students of other denominations in play and in study. Catholics have never asked for more than a fair hearing. They have always said "Here is our faith. We have nothing to fear and nothing to hide." An opportunity now presents itself for Catholics to put that faith prominently before a large number of the non-Catholic youth of this country every year, and in this way to remove any baseless prejudices which the bigots may entertain. Unless we are willing to face the prospect of ceaseless denominational bickering we should hasten to seize the most powerful weapon for its destruction that has ever been placed in our hands. If the federation will help the world, or a part of the world, Catholics should

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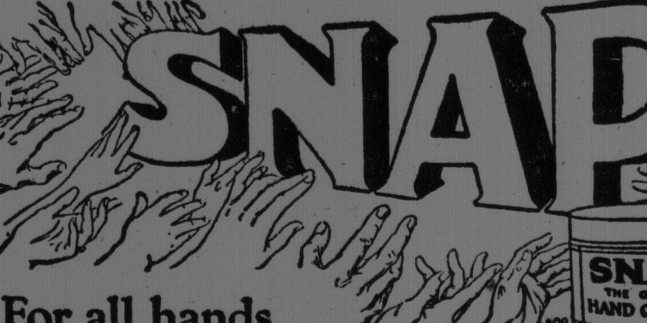
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not hold aloft. The position which Catholics should take in relation to movements of this kind is admirably stated by Father Cuthbert in an article in the "Ecclesiastical Review," November, 1919. Father Cuthbert is writing about the Church and reconstruction, but his words seem singularly appropriate as an epilogue to the religious phase of this discussion. He says: "The Church of today has to concern herself not with the thirteenth century nor the sixteenth, but with the present. It is her task now to enter into the mind and aspirations of the actual world before her that she may guide and direct in the way of truth and assist in creating a new order out of chaos. . . . As Catholics our attitude must be neither an attitude of unyielding opposition nor of unintelligent surrender; but of co-operation inspired at once by our faith in the teaching of the Church and by a Catholic sympathy with whatever is vital and good in the struggle for the world's betterment."

FORMER M. P. DEAD  
Elova, Ont., Oct. 21—John McGowan, ex-M. P., died at his home here yesterday. He was one of the best known men in this district. He was born in Greenock, Scotland, in 1845, coming to Canada in 1857. He took an active part in public affairs and was reeve of Peel Township for several years. He was first elected to the Ontario legislature in 1874, and as a Conservative to the dominion parliament in 1890, sitting for the old federal constituency of Central Wellington.

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