

*Education*

sacrifices and earn their living while attending lectures. Some work in the daytime, so as to continue their studies at night. Is it not magnificent, the courage, the determination of youth to learn something so as to be better equipped for life? Naturally, the requirements of modern life make it necessary that universities be better equipped. It is necessary for universities to have all the new inventions in order to teach the young ones how to take advantage of the progress of science. All that is very good. It is expensive. As a Quebec taxpayer, I have to pay my share of that, as do all the members in their own province.

If a certain amount is given by the dominion government to the provinces, we will all pay for it but we will have no control. The control will remain within the provinces, and a gift for education without control to ensure the good use of it—what does it amount to? We, as members of parliament, are in duty bound to protect the taxpayers. In my humble view the resolution before us could be submitted to any one of the legislatures in Canada, but I do not see how it can come before the dominion parliament when, as aforesaid, and in virtue of the constitution, we have no jurisdiction over the matter.

Some people are insisting too much upon educational requirements. The member for Royal (Mr. Brooks) spoke about the soldiers and sailors who were not well enough educated to be accepted in any branch of the service. I wonder, sir, how many honorary degrees a British tommy or a French poilu should have? What is the requirement for the army? It is to be in good health and to be willing to fight, to know how to carry a gun and make good use of it. That is all. What is the necessity for a poilu or for a tommy knowing the infinitesimal calculus? It is ridiculous. But there are some people who say that we must have an army of brains, and that each soldier should be a B.A. because, as Napoleon I said, "In each soldier's bag there is a marshal's baton". It is ridiculous.

Another thing that is ridiculous is the number of Ph.D's., et cetera, that we have here in the service. It is incredible, but if anyone looks at the Canadian Almanac, Department of Agriculture, he will see that the head of the fertilizer branch is a B.A., et cetera, et cetera. A cowboy was needed on an experimental farm in the province of Quebec. A B.A. was required. I will add nothing to that. Everybody will understand.

It is not only that. In the Civil Service Act there is a provision to the effect that

[Mr. Pouliot.]

experts or men of unusual technical ability may be appointed without examination. What happens? Mr. So and So goes to the civil service commission. He is not Mr. So and So; he is Dr. So and So. We have a great many doctors, and I shall have something to say about that matter. Dr. So and So goes to the civil service commission and he tells the head examiner, "You need experts; you need technicians. I am an expert; I am a technician". They say, "What is your degree?" He says, "I am a doctor of laws; I received my degree from the university of Warsaw". They do not ask him to show his parchment with the golden seal on it. They take him at his word. Then they appoint the illustrious Dr. So and So, doctor of laws, science, arts, medicine, with the degree conferred by the university of Warsaw. He is an expert. That is what is done at the civil service commission. I do not exaggerate. Everybody knows that is true. Those lamp posts nearly always mention cities behind the iron curtain as the seats of learning at which they obtained their so-called degree. Not only that, but I knew a man who was secretary of the Canadian Bar Association and who was appointed doctor of laws honoris causa by the university of Manitoba; and in the official records he was mentioned as Dr. So and So, doctor of this and doctor of that—there was a list as long as my arm. There was another man right here in this room who was a doctor. People would say "How are you, doctor?" "Very well, thank you", said the doctor. It was always "doctor"; it was "doctor" in the *Votes and Proceedings*, in *Hansard* and all over. He was given the degree of doctor honoris causa by a university that did not give lectures in law. But he was an illustrious doctor, a well-educated man. This is the progress of education in Canada. We mistake the shadow for the reality. We are young; we are credulous; and we forget that what is most important for all men is to have qualities of the heart and of the mind that are much superior to wrong education, on many occasions.

When I think of the training of children, I cannot do otherwise than bow to the priests of the province of Quebec who earn a meagre salary, one which is less in money than anything that is paid to any university professor. Some of those men have gone to study at Louvain, Paris, and the various capitals of Europe, in order to give to the youth of our country a kind of education that is unparalleled. They do so at a great sacrifice. I remember my father's friend who was exceedingly good to me. I refer to the late lamented Archbishop Mathieu of Regina who