

CROSS CURRENTS IN EDUCATION.

The Frontier College bill now before the Senate, seeking enlarged powers for that institution has encountered some opposition from the regular universities. The older institutions seem insistent upon enforcing the regulations which in most cases require actual attendance on classes to merit credits toward a degree. In stating their position the Universities' Conference have formally made objection that a degree should be granted only to those who have pursued studies which continuously occupy every day of the week for four academic sessions. But this requirement, if put into effect, would forever debar from degrees all those who have to combine study with manual work. This is the very barrier which the Frontier College is seeking to overcome. All such restrictions serve only to widen the breach between an educated class on one side, and the great body of uneducated workers on the other.

The man who desires to study while at this work may take longer, even many years may be involved in his efforts to achieve his goal. But no thoughtful educationist would, in the face of this, venture the extreme statement that "it is absolutely impossible" for a working man to combine experience and private study in a way which would secure for him quite as good, if indeed not a much better education for life's uses, than the conventional preliminary education offered by the universities. The fact is that a serious student can qualify by private study for a degree in Arts, in Science, as well as many of the highly praiseworthy branches of occupational study. His efforts may be more arduous, but they need not be any the less thorough.

Every intelligent reader knows that many of the world's greatest thinkers and scholars have been self-taught men. It has also become pretty apparent in recent years to some of us that as much real serious reading and study is being done by the working classes at the present time as by any other class in the community. Under the circumstances, therefore, it ought also to be apparent that any institution, such as the Frontier College, designed to assist and direct the thinking and study of working men ought to be encouraged by everyone who understands and appreciates the educational problems confronting us today throughout this Dominion.

The Frontier College has adapted its methods of instruction to meet the needs of present day requirements. Its instructors, alone among educational leaders, have carried education to the worker at his work. This is a leaven in our social life. Lloyd George draws a dark picture of an impending struggle between the classes so unhappily divided in the old lands. Who can be sure that it is overdrawn? Can we boast that no clouds darken our own horizon. But the spectacle of college trained men going, in ever increasing numbers, from the ranks of the more favored classes, as manual workers and instructors for the Frontier College, is a silver lining that bespeaks well for hope in the morrow.