

of the degrees of B.A. and M.A. that they do not now possess ; but a federation of existing universities, with a transfer of all the outlying colleges to Toronto, would not be popular. It would be a signal for the people of Ottawa, Kingston, Belleville, Cobourg, Hamilton and London to establish for themselves, or to agitate for the establishment of, colleges similar to those of which they would feel themselves unjustly deprived. If the existing colleges massed themselves in Toronto to-morrow, would a Government that located a second Normal School at Ottawa, and promised another one at Kingston, refuse charters to proposed colleges in cities outside of Toronto? Several colleges are needed in this Province—not all in one centre, but at different points. We can scarcely have too many colleges, if they are properly equipped. The regulations suggested above would certainly not tend to multiply them unnecessarily. If the number did increase, the Government might pride itself on having started so many colleges at so trifling a cost to the country. If the North-West Indians, or the heathen Chinese of British Columbia, decided to come to Ontario to establish an arts college for themselves, if they complied with the regulations and claimed the grant, they should get it. No countenance or aid should be given to “one-horse” colleges. In dealing with any new question, it is always well to act in accordance with principles the soundness of which has long been conceded. In granting aid to colleges in accordance with regulations such as I have suggested, the Government would be following the example of the British Parliament, and would moreover be acting along the line of the policy adopted towards the High Schools of the Province. No Public School can claim a High School grant by simply dubbing itself a High School. It must first comply with the Government regulations ; so every college would have to fully comply with the regulations before becoming entitled to its share of the Legislative grant. It should make little difference to the Government where the colleges are located or who builds them ; whether at the Northwest angle of the Lake of the Woods or in the Queen’s Park, Toronto ; whether erected by the Shakers or the Presbyterians ; whether the professors are cultured dons from Oxford, or beardless Canadian boys, so long as the wants of the country are fairly met and fairly supplied.

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