

## Education

Naturally I bow to my hon. colleagues who have been teachers, school inspectors and even school board trustees, because they have been familiar with the problem of education at large and the bringing up of children in the schools. I profoundly admire the devotion of teachers of every category, who try to mould the minds of the young ones who attend their classes. They help in forming public opinion at the start when they teach these young boys and girls who are the main asset of this country. The Romans used to call the knowledge of letters *litterae humaniores*, the letters that are more human. That is a literal translation. The meaning of the expression is that the knowledge of letters makes a man more human or contributes towards making a man complete from the point of view of intelligence.

Do you remember, sir, learning at school about those who came with the first settlers of this country, to teach the gospel and the languages of Europe to the young people who attended their classes? Not long ago in Rome one of the ladies who came here at the beginning of the colony to educate the young people was beatified in the church of St. Peter for her devotion to youth. All those people who came to this country from the old land with the determination to raise the standard of understanding of the youth of that time, both the civilized and uncivilized youth, deserve to be remembered because they rendered an immense service to this country.

Education cannot be assessed in terms of money, though money is needed to follow certain courses that are very expensive. However, I would not want anyone to believe that if he has lots of money at his disposal he may become better educated than one who is not in such favoured circumstances. And by the way, sir, you know very well that the pillars of the universities and seats of learning are often men who have succeeded in life by their own means, who have been self-taught and who have given part of their incomes or of their fortunes to support institutions of learning. If the universities of Canada had not been able to rely upon the support they have received from provincial governments, where would they be today? I remember that in spite of the millions that have been given by the provincial government of Quebec to McGill university, Chancellor James complained that the government had not been generous enough. I found that ungrateful at the time.

What is the source of income of a university? It is not the meagre amounts contributed by the students. The professors could not live on that, and naturally they

deserve to be well paid. Some of them are; some others are not. The greatest contribution toward the upkeep of our universities and seats of learning comes from the pocket-book of the Canadian taxpayer, large or small. It is easy to say the dominion government should be more generous in matters of education. It may be the duty of each of us as a private individual to discuss the matter of education, but as members of parliament it is not our business unless the British North America Act is changed. It is not within the province of the dominion parliament to deal with education.

The debate today, in common with debates in previous years, was premature. We do not know, and no one knows, what agreement will be reached between the dominion government and the provinces with regard to education.

Education may, at times, be a good thing. It is not always a good thing because of that old proverb, "Ignorance is bliss." I know of many men who would be much happier if they did not know how to read or write. I know many who do not know how to read or write, but who are well educated; who are perfect gentlemen with fine manners; who have a most interesting conversation. Why? Because they take the time to think. They express their own views. They try to share their thoughts with other people in an inimitable way.

Science has made great progress, but not always for the good of the world; far from it. Science has been dealing with great problems, problems that may bring about the complete destruction of mankind. I am not very strong for that science. In my humble view, sir, science should always serve mankind for the betterment of life, and not for the destruction of the peoples of the world.

But now, sir, when I speak of education, I mean total education; education of a child on his mother's knee; education of a child by his mother who teaches him the rudiments of his faith; who tells him how to speak clearly, distinctly and well the language of his fathers. Sometimes the mothers teach both languages to their children so as to equip them for the struggle that they will encounter when they grow older. Then, boys and girls go to the primary school. I am astonished at times at the columns of young children who walk long distances in blizzards and all sorts of bad weather to go each day to the little school where they will improve the education that they have received at home. Then, with that training, some boys and some girls can succeed in life and be good citizens. Some others continue their studies. Some make