



Alberta Plans Government Licensing of Professors

The Provincial Secretary of Alberta, Hon. C. E. Gerhart, recently announced that a bill will be introduced at the forth-coming session of the legislature to license professional classes. He said that the Government "planned to open the doors for anyone to come to Alberta and practice if properly qualified."

The proposed legislation will cover lawyers, doctors, dentists, druggists, engineers, accountants, optometrists, chiropractors, veterinarians, and naturopaths. At present a number of these professional groups are "licensed" through their own professional associations, which are empowered to do so by special provincial legislation, which provides that, before being able to practice a profession, one must belong to the particular professional association in question. The government's attitude was that it had delegated the licensing power to the professions, and now would take it back.

Under the proposed legislation, applications for a license to practice in the province will first be referred to the Faculty Council of the University of Alberta, which will decide if the applicant has had sufficient professional training to place him on a par with the level required for students of the same profession graduating in Alberta. "If they are approved by the Faculty Council, they will be given a provincial license at a nominal fee. The Government will not reject anyone who has been approved by the general faculty council", Mr. Gerhart said.

This announcement has provoked a mixed response. Opposition of those professional people who made comments on the proposed legislation falls into two classes. One was from the groups, like lawyers and doctors, whose associations now have complete control in Alberta of admitting members to professional practice, disciplining, and suspending them. (This is the same at present in all Canadian provinces) They do not wish to lose this privilege. Some fear possible effects of this as further centralization of the power of government. Others commented that it might work if proper precautions are taken.

The second group, including optometrists, chiropractors, who at present have varying degrees of "self-government" in the different provinces, wish to obtain complete autonomy enjoyed by the medical and legal profession.

The proposed legislation has evoked various comments from officials representing the organizations in question, and from individual members. Members of the Law and Medical associations have made statements to the press criticizing the move, and they claim that the present organization of these associations is adequately serving the function for which they were organized. Others fear the possibility of political considerations entering into the

granting of licences. The secretary of the Alberta Dental Association, Dr. R. A. Rooney, said, "It doesn't make much difference whether we do the licensing or the province does it." Some prominent members of the associations concerned said they would reserve comment until the actual bill is introduced into the legislature some time this February.

Newspaper comment, both city daily, and country-weekly generally is favorable to the new legislation. The press commends the government's attempt to allow good brains, wherever trained, to serve the public regardless of narrow professional interest. The contribution that the various associations have made in the past is recognized, and the papers note that their numerous functions will not be affected by the move (other than losing the power to licence or refuse to licence applicants for permits to practice). Membership and participation in these organizations would then be voluntary.

In particular, criticism is directed at the Alberta Bar Association for its regulations which tend to exclude lawyers who are graduates of other universities, by charging them a membership fee of \$1500.00 before being permitted to practice. The press interprets this as an attempt to keep the field a "Closed Shop" for Alberta lawyers, and to keep out of the province qualified students who might come. This, they contend, deprives the public of services from which they might well benefit.

The papers noted the shortage of professional men, especially of doctors, dentists, and lawyers, in the rural communities of Alberta, and suggested that the lack of restrictions, other than those requiring proper qualifications, might induce more to come into the province. They express confidence in having the University of Alberta act as the examining body to determine whether the applicants have the necessary training to permit them to competently practice their professions.

Letters have appeared in both Edmonton and Calgary daily papers from several resident and non-resident students who have BA's and LLB's from other Canadian universities, who have been refused the right to article in Alberta. The right of this refusal is stated as being the refusal is stated as being the recognition the particular BA's granted, since part of the credit had been obtained through summer sessions. (Alberta students are granted on graduation a BA with their LLB, on the completion of a two year pre-law course).

Dean Cecil Wright, of the University of Toronto School of Law, commenting on this legislation in a statement to the press, noted that self regulation of the legal profession by its members is not necessarily the same thing as regulation of the profession in

Mystery In Jest

In Babylon a dream within a dream.

This is a story he always told when the conversation was getting dull. It was an 8 cylinder job, guaranteed to make your ulcers cring into submission.

It appears that once there was a certain young miss who had an uncle. He was one of those guys who moped around tombs and mummies and came up with all kinds of startling answers—an anthropologist or something. Any summer when he was all wrapped up in old Babylonia he used to amuse her with all sorts of grisly talks of ancient tombs and stuff like that and she, being a giddy young sprout got all steamed up about the old Mesopotamians, as if that mattered, they being all dead I guess.

So what happens. She is nosing around one day and comes upon an inscription on a whisky glass or something, that says, "The Great Gods forgotten, death a life they determine; but of death its days they do not reveal". Can you beat that? Those guys were pysicalogical tho, weren't they?

I winced. "Philosophical too."

Well anyway, she got her Uncle Joe to give out with some info and he shovels the stuff at her a mile a minute about when a noble got the gate, they kill all his slaves and cattle with him and bury them all together—but never burned them.

the public interest. Self interest of the profession in existing monopolistic powers and privileges may sometimes clash with the public interest in receiving the best possible service, since the latter might require interference with, and curtailment of existing privileges. He said "the profession in Ontario still refuses to recognize on any basis of equality law students educated elsewhere than in their own proprietary school (Osgoode Hall) and this regardless of the comparative merits of faculty, teaching program, or other facilities." Dean Wright considers that the only claim the professions can have to continue administering the admittance to these professions is that they, rather than the public, are persons best capable of protecting the public interest.

Mr. Justice V. C. MacDonald of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, recently commented on the practice of some associations in admitting qualified non-resident lawyers. In an article in the Canadian Bar Review he said "This system not only operates to keep the outsider out, but also to deter residents from seeking their legal training elsewhere and then returning to their native province . . . It makes but a poor contribution to the cause of national unity, for it prevents that very flow of professional talent from which all provinces have benefited in the past, and also inhibits the growth of that national consciousness which is so essential in our federal system."

A recent move has been made by some members in the Alberta Bar Association to have the \$1500.00 fee removed, and to charge non-resident lawyers the fee of \$205.00 that is charged graduates of the University of Alberta. This motion is being submitted by letter vote to the members of the association as a whole. The problem of recognizing outside degrees will still remain.

But our little chick had imagination and kept telling herself they were all burned to death and got feeling very sorry for all the innocent slaves. She got so hepped up about them, she dreamed of it every night, I mean that she was a slave girl but she always woke up before they dropped her in the pit and so beat their old priests to the draw every time.

Well sir, she near went off her rocker. Irregardless of—

"Regardless".

"Yes, like I said. Irregardless of old Joe, she takes a powder to see if she can dream nice respectable dreams at home.

Well here's the punch. She's waiting for the bus, see, and Uncle Joe's just off stage pulling a neglected-father-act. "She's standin' there thinking of that inscription and the guy behind her says

to his friend, you never know when it's your turn next.

The coincidence floors her. She begins to sweat and thinks of black magic and mental telegraph."

(I let him go this time).

Just then the bus comes in. She takes one look at the driver and she lets out a scream. The driver bangs his head in an effort to look in the mirror to see what's wrong with his face—but there's nothing wrong—well it's the same old face. But she thinks he's the old Mesopotamian priest and takes a tail spin into the nearest pair of arms.

"Well," I asked, "how did she get home?"

"Not by the bus. Last I heard she was still walking".

"So?" I ventured impatiently.

"So here's the catch. You know that bus she was gonna take?"

"Yes".
"Well it's a good thing it left without her. It overturned on the Mountain Road and burned everyone in it to a crisp!"

Threnody

Now as ever is the Vacuum full
Of nothingness, from which it came,
To which it goes,
In empty monologue.
Emptier far than the soundless
Laugh of phantoms in the night;
Emptier than the city streets at midnight
In the rain—
The tears of old September come again
With sad song of sorrow.
And with each falling leaf
The fading years parade
In endless pageantry of loss;
In wet and dank decay pale
Its spectral smile of mockery.
Full Vacuum! Impregnated Life!
Is this holy pattern to be damned
To everlasting dust?
September's laugh is full of rain tonight
And leaves that fall, and fall, and fall;
Of mist that drips, and drips—
And ghosts that walk and cry:
"This is but an evil dream, men call it Life.
A dream. A fantasy. A thing
Not concrete, whose waking hour is the grave."
Is this the end of that romantic day
That had such difficulty dawning?
Is this the wisdom that dark angel brings?
Sad song of sorrow staid September sings
As the weeping skies drip and drip
Their tears?

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