

ADMINISTRATIVE

I find on considering this phase of the subject the first grave defect of the system consists in the constitution of our Educational Council composed as it is of the Departmental heads or Ministers of the Crown. That the Minister of Education should be a member of that Council is perhaps axiomatic, but one need not go beyond the present incumbent to show that such a situation does not always promise greatly for educational welfare.

That the other Ministers of the Crown should be members of this body is, in my opinion, most unwise. During the temporary absence of a minister his work is added to that of a minister in some other department. No one will contend that the problems connected with our land question are not serious enough to command the entire attention of the Commissioner of Lands. That our agricultural situation will tax to the utmost the energies and abilities of the Minister of Agriculture will be readily admitted. Shortly it may be said that each department is in itself a sufficient problem for the Minister responsible for its administration. What possible advantage then can education receive by having an Educational Council so composed?

What then is the result of the constitution of our Educational Council? It is that the entire burden of properly caring for educational development falls on the shoulders of the Minister of Education, but at all times, and especially under present conditions, lies almost entirely upon the shoulders of the Superintendent of Education. No one man in my opinion can possibly evolve a proper educational system especially when, as has often been the case with our Superintendent of Education, that man is burdened with certain administrative work which lessens his opportunity of attending to the general requirements of the situation.

It is my belief that each University represents an individual educational viewpoint peculiar to that institution, while in the main teaching the same subjects as other universities. Oxford and Cambridge stand for distinctive types of education; just as do each of our recognized Canadian Universities. To secure the greatest possible number of these educational types in our educational Council without making it unworkable is, I think, the wisest and best plan. One suggestion, a purely tentative one, would be the formation of an educational Council composed of the principals of the University and of the different colleges of British Columbia, together with the Minister and Superintendent of Education, and the Principal of the Normal School. Another tentative suggestion would be the creation of an educational Council of Seven, of whom the Minister and Superintendent of Education would be two and the others chosen for outstanding educational worth. With such men as Dr. John Mackay, Prof. Henderson, and others in our midst a suitable Council would not be hard to select.