

I am surprised that you, Sir, who are familiar with the whole history of the federation movement should make a statement so much at variance both with the letter and the spirit of the Agreement. I find that the Agreement contains no hint of regarding this as a maximum, but on the contrary makes full, careful and adequate provision for the expansion of University College. Section 7 of the Agreement stipulates that University College shall afford to all students who desire to avail themselves thereof the requisite facilities for obtaining adequate instruction in the following subjects, viz., English, Latin, etc. (the College subjects). There is no hint in this of any intention to limit the scope of the College teaching. But I find a still more specific stipulation, providing for due expansion, in section 15 of the Agreement. After enumerating the staff of University College, the clause continues: "Additional assistance in above subjects to be provided so that no honour class shall exceed twelve, or pass class thirty."

But apart from the definiteness of the Agreement on these points, an examination of some of the consequences of your assumption will, I think, show its unreasonableness. It can hardly be imagined that it was ever seriously proposed, much less embodied in an Act, to limit the responsibility of the State as to the teaching of such subjects as English, Latin, etc., and at the same time to provide for the unlimited expansion of the teaching of say Mathematics, Astronomy, Metaphysics, etc. Moreover, the terms of the Federation Agreement are clear and positive on this point. It says (section 7a): "University College shall afford to all students who desire to avail themselves thereof, the requisite facilities for obtaining adequate instruction in the following subjects in the curriculum of the Provincial University, viz., Latin, Greek, etc., etc." It is undoubtedly the duty of the State to make such provision, and this quite independently of federation, or of the presence of Victoria, or any other institution in federation. On any other understanding the federation bargain surely is an utterly unintelligible and indefensible one.

But such full and adequate provision becomes an impossibility under your proposed restriction. Restrict the staff as you propose, and, with increasing numbers it would be entirely inadequate to overtake the teaching. With your restriction University College would, with such increase, in self-defence be obliged to turn away students from its doors, and deny to the citizen the right to educate his son at the State College. With your restriction the State would be debarred from increasing the staff of University College, even if the necessary funds were available from increased fees. This is such a complete *reductio ad absurdum* that further comment seems to be unnecessary.

I might add here that the Government has not interpreted the Act in this way. For example, a necessity arose, I was informed, in Latin, on account of the increased classes; and the Government has made provision for an additional lecturer in excess of what you hold to be the limit. I am convinced that your theory is not only untenable in view of the Act, the Agreement, and the consequences I have pointed out, but that it represents an attitude which is at variance with that held by the representatives of Victoria (yourself included) when amendments to the Act were considered by the Senate in 1893. On that occasion to remove all doubts as to restrictions, by the unanimous vote of the Senate, it was recommended that the following clause should be incorporated in the Act. "In University College instruction shall be given by a professor and such other instructors as the Lieutenant-Governor may from time to time determine in Greek, Latin, etc.," (the College subjects). Had this claim of restriction for University College and free expansion for the University side been brought forward during the federation negotiations, you must be aware that it would have effectually and definitely ended the federation movement.