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Conference . or Scrabble?

We were impressed, extremely impressed, with five comments that appeared in the Fredericton Gleaner last Thursday night. These comments were made by five local delegates to the National Conference on Education held in Ottawa last month. The delegates were Dr. F. E. MacDiarmid, New Brunswick's Chief Superintendant of Education; Mr. Charles Simms, Fredericton School Board Chairman; Dr. Marguerite Michaud, Member of the Teachers' College Faculty; Mrs. R. D. Baird, Canadian Federation of University Women; and Mrs. William Kolding, representative of the Home and School Movement.

We shall attempt to reiterate in abbreviated form what these delegates said about the conference, as quoted in the Gleaner. The first two points had been summarized by the staff of the Gleaner and may have lost some of their clarity in that process.

1. Vague statement about extensive Federal aid for education;

2. Even vaguer statement as to how this aid would be given, perhaps in the form of scholarships on the university level.

Recommendation that the teaching of French and English should commence at the grade 3 level in respectively English and French speaking areas;

4. Approval of a resolution calling for a survey and registry of physically and mentally handicapped children;

5. A mention of the theory that children should be diverted in three or four different streams of education, with the top group going on to university;

6. A general agreement that teacher's salaries should

We do not want to be rude or even unpleasant, but we question the value of a National Conference on Education if this is the extent to which educational problems are discussed. We will go even further and be as bold as to say that if this were the only thing that this conference resolved it has been one of the greatest failures in the history of educational conferences.

Some delegates made statements wherein they disclosed their own (we hope) opinion that there is nothing wrong with the Canadian Educational system. We feel that this is unfounded optimism and we base this refutation on the fact that the general concensus of opinion is that teacher material in the grammar schools of this province is not of a high enough standard. The mathematics departments of this University might like to enlarge

The Gleaner printed a number of comments allegedly made by these delegates, comments that only deserve to be called inane and nondescript. The only reason that we do not use stronger terms is the fact that we try to go easy on the delegates.

Next to nothing was said on the problems of the grammar and High Schools either in terms of finance or in terms of educational standards.

Next to nothing was said about the financial needs of the Canadian universities and of the Canadian university students;

Nothing was said about the shockingly small per centage of young Canadians that can or does attend university in comparison with the U.S. and Russia;

Dr. MacDiarmid came forth with the brilliant state- | The Editor, The Brunswickan ment that "the convention favoured improvement of a Sir: balanced program, rather than concentration on science as is being done in Russia", a statement that means so little that we wondered whether this was something that he had read somewhere without thinking about it.

Nothing specific was said about the ways and means in which this Conference suggested to relieve the diverse ways in which the financial difficulties of the Canadian universities and their students might be relieved, suggestions as they were put forward, for instance, by Dr. Bissell, President-elect of the University of Toronto and by the representatives of the National Federation of Canadian University Students.

We had looked forward to comments on these topics, especially by those representing the organization called 'Canadian Federation of University Women' and by the Chief Superintendant, but we were bitterly disillusioned. We hope that the Gleaner was at fault for the weakness of these comments, because if the Fredericton delegates did not learn more and exhibit a greater intelligence than can be read in the reports of these five people, then we can only come to one conclusion, and that is that our educational system needs to be completely overhauled, beginning with the adults, and we are forced to hope that at future conferences the Fredericton area will be more competently represented.

Letters to the Editor

The Editor, The Brunwickan

win the basketball game at Mount ing. Allison was probably due to poor officiating. I consider this to be an erroneous judgement.

It is true that several bad calls and many questionable calls were made by the referees. In my opinion, the majority of these were made in UNB's favour. Almost all of the questionable endline and side-line decisions were made in UNB's favour. In the first half, a Mount A player was unguarded near the basket and attempted a layoff. After the ball had left his hands but while he was still in the air, a UNB player (who had no chance of stopping the shot) jumped into him. Two shots should have been awarded, since the try was unsuccessful, under Rule 10:7 (a) or 10:7 (b), but the officials gave the shooter (who was considerably shaken up) only one shot. Near the end of the game, Casey pushed a player in the chest and was surprised himself to see the officials call the foul on the other player. With only a few minutes to play, Hosiak cut through the centre of the key and was foiled in taking a preparatory step to laying up the ball. He let the ball go simultaneously with the sound of the officials whistle and scored easily. The basket was disallowed and one foul shot was awarded in spite of the exception of Rule 67 (f) and the note following Rule 10:7. There also were numerous instances which showed the impartiality of the referees such as the awarding of a basket to UNB after the shot had been knocked down by a defensive Mount A player and the award of a free throw to a UNB player in the last second of

My analysis of the game is that the Hawks were better than UNB with respect to fast-breaking, rebounding, passing, screening and cutting. UNB unfortunately lost Wightman, who was playing the fore-court game for the Raiders, in the first half. The jump shots of Casey and Gorman were often sensational in the

second half while Kelly made some good passes under the In two separate columns of the basket. Personally, I thought February 11 issue of the Bruns- that the tie score was a good wickan, it is stated that the indication of the play and was failure of the Red Raiders to almost indefondent of the officiat-

> Yours truly, signed David McLay

DON'T FORGET SRC MEETING TONIGHT

"Some beams of wit on other souls may fall, Strike they and make a lucid

interval But L.S.L.'s genuine night admits no ray,

His rising fogs prevail upon the day."

Were John Dryden alive today, his famous satire could well have been aimed at the part-time gentleman whose VanDyke beard ill serves its purpose of obscuring that fact that its owner hails from Windsor, N.S.; not from Stratford-on-Avon as he would have us believe.

A recent article in the "Daily Gleaner" shows that his taste in comedy appreciation matches his taste in English tweeds.

The standards he sets would prove strenuous for a Broadway production of "My Fair Lady and since the Red 'n' Black does not make pretensions to professionalism, such a criticism is entirely unfair. His facetious remarks, particularly those pertaining to George Andrin, are not even slightly justifiable, and fortunately for the 'kids' who took part in the revue, his opinions are not synonomous with those citizens of Fredericton. In fact, the only ourpose which his article could possibly serve is to suggest an award for his literary achievements; this award taking the form of a package of Gillette Blue Blades, a copy of Pope's "Essay on Criticism" and a oneway ticket to Greenwich Village.

> Yours truly, signed: Charles Bolster

