

The following letter, from the father of one of the English students who came to McGill this year, is very interesting at the present time and might be useful to read during the discussion on Commerce courses at the Universities Conference:-

"I have recently heard from T saying that his sponsors advise his changing over to the Arts course instead of the Commerce, and giving what appear to me rather more academical than practical reasons for the change, - such as that the Commerce course contains a lot of unnecessary practical work and is too much in one track to fulfil the real object of a University course, which should be to broaden the student's mind, to do which the student should be at liberty to choose his own courses, look round the faculties and pick and choose whatever he thought he should do best and like best, and so develop a well cultivated and fertile mind, etc. etc. (a lot more in a similar strain), all of which, as I said appears to me very nice from an academical point of view but not so much use to a lad in Tony's position, who has to try and get himself ready to earn his own living immediately his course at the University is finished, and who may not even be able to take the fall course, if the powers that be in this country continue to squeeze the taxpayer beyond his capability to endure the burden, which is obviously what they are doing at present.

"The very reason I put him in the Commerce course was because it appeared to be the one that would give a lad with a fair all round grounding and no particular brilliance in any one direction, the best chance of a practical training that would fit him for future employment, whereas the arguments ~~xxxx~~ advanced by his sponsors appear to me more applicable to a budding statesman or at any rate someone with an assured income, who has no need to worry about his immediate future. ~~xxxxxx~~  
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