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WHY NOT FEDERAL AID?

A report which should catch the attention of every Nova Scotian will be published in a few weeks by a Royal Commission on Education Finance headed by Mr. Justice V. J. Pottier. It should be of particular interest to university students, since it will have a great deal of influence on the financial future of educational institutions in the province.

Of course, there is not much point in trying to second guess Judge Pottier's report, but there is no harm in drawing the attention of students to it in the hope that they will devote some of their time to its consideration when it became available. Because it will deal mostly with education finance which is the basis upon which all our educational institutions are operated it will receive the attention of our governments—municipal, provincial and federal.

One of the cruelest consequences of the disputes about education finance is the low educational level which prevails because too many young people are forced to abandon school at too early an age. Some place the blame on the provincial government which claims that it cannot support education to any greater extent that it is doing at the present time. Others say the municipalities are not spending enough of their money on schools. No matter which is true, if either, the fact remains that Nova Scotia's schools are generally poor, from the construction standpoint, and in too many cases they are poorly staffed and paid accordingly. If neither the municipality nor the provincial government is willing or able to provide a satisfactory level of education for all Nova Scotians, then there appears to be only one solution, one which will naturally be strongly opposed by the advocates of provincial rights. That is: Federal Government assistance to provincial educational institutions.

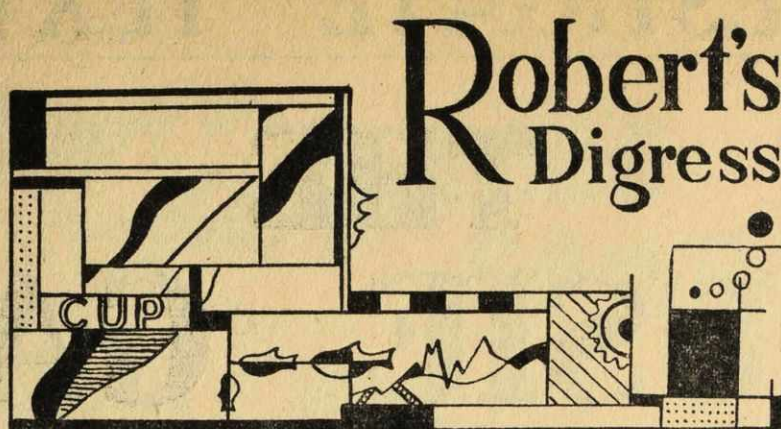
Before you start complaining about the constitutional rights of the provinces, face up to a few obvious facts. The province is doing little to bring the educational standards up to satisfactory levels, the municipalities say they have not the money to do so, but still the fact remains that Nova Scotia's educational system is inadequate. There remains two possible approaches to the problem:

- (1) The people of Nova Scotia can do nothing and permit the present conditions to exist, or
- (2) They can press for more federal aid for education, in spite of the British North America Act which allots the field of the education to the provinces.

No rational person would accept (1) as the way out of the problem and for those who object to (2) on constitutional grounds, let them consider the following argument.

Periodically, the federal government and provinces sign what is called a "tax rental agreement." Under the agreement, the province agrees to refrain from exercising its right to levy direct taxes in certain fields. In return, the federal government takes over those certain fields and it agrees to pay certain monies to the provincial government. In the case of Nova Scotia, the amount paid out by the federal government to the province exceeds the amount the province would have realized if it had retained its right to levy direct taxes.

Obviously, the Nova Scotia government is going to use this money, which amounts to a federal grant or subsidy, for purposes which come within the sphere of provincial rights. That, is the provincial government has accepted money from the federal government for such projects as highways, agriculture, and other uses. If the people of Nova Scotia are willing to accept money from the federal government for these objects, what valid objection can they have to using federal government money for educational objectives? The federal government has not interfered with the way Nova Scotia's government uses the taxation subsidies. Is it logical to suppose that the federal government would interfere to the extent of taking away the provincial rights with respect to education? Do we consider our constitutional organization so weak that the federal government cannot be trusted to refrain from undue influence over matters within the provincial sphere? Let's be logical. Nova Scotia needs help for its educational system. There is no reason why the federal government should not help, and correspondingly there is no logical reason why the province should object to accepting it.



Robert's Digress

In Ottawa:

"Arthure Leblanc, one of the most brilliant Canadian violin virtuosos, was able by his skill and personality to serve us a delicious 'musical banquet.' Accompanied on the piano by the renowned artist, Charles Reiner, Mr. Leblanc offered a choice repertoire." (the Fulcrum).

ED. Why can't we at Dal, have the same thing?

Girls from Leretta High, Toronto, visited Ottawa U. on Nov. 1. Most of the girls are natives from South America. They had breakfast at the Oval Cafeteria (poor girls), then they toured the University and other tourist attractions in the capital.

Carleton College officials were rather disappointed with the total sales of Indian Handicraft (WUS). Only \$391 will be turned over to the Carleton WUS committee.

ED. At least they have a profit to show, they should be thankful that they do not have the problem of the Associated Students of the University of Southern Colifornia which this year finds itself \$123,135 in the hole. This is even worse than here at Dal. As a matter of fact I cannot see why our council is so "stingy" with our money, considering the fact that we operated with a \$4000 profit last year.

Ryerson College:

So many students come to classes, and so many of them own cars, that the U. Officials had to issue parking permits. They issued 250, and have received as many complaints from students who were denied parking privileges.

The social whirl is still under ban at Ryerson, all informal dances, parties, etc. have been cancelled and by the look of things will remain so, for the rest of this academic year. But the Ryersonian students do not seem to mind this very much. They only have to transform these organized staff parties to secretive clandestine meetings. They can also "crash" other school dances (much more fun). It is also possible that some of these students may find greener fields and not return to Ryerson when and if the ban is lifted.

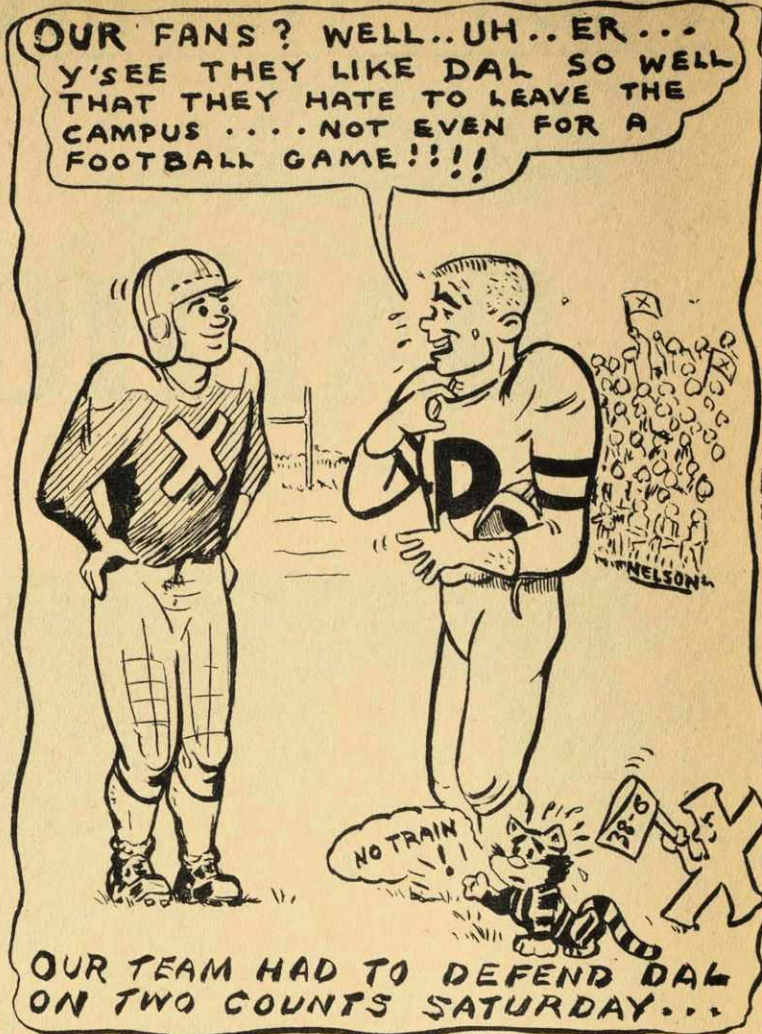
But this ban did not affect the drive of Ryerson students in other fields, this is proved beyond a reasonable doubt by the fact that students of this institution have collected well over \$1000 to establish a Flood Fund, for the needy victims of the recent Toronto flood and hurricane.

McGill U:

Engineers out-bleed all faculties, at the recent Red Cross blood donor clinic. Apart from the competition on a faculty basis, the fraternities gave the donors campaign their active support. One frat member wanted this publicized "because we're always accused of doing silly things."

St. Michael's College:

has played the host to a visiting group from St. John Fisher College from Rochester, N.Y., over the W.E. The visit was arranged as part of a program of such exchanges, which work on a literary-dramatic basis.



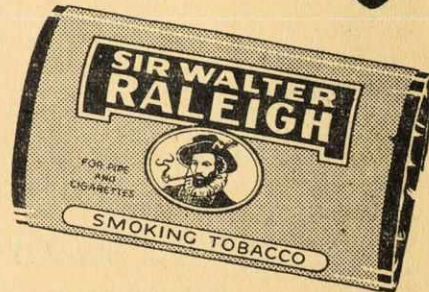
Queen's U:

The corner stone of a new men's residence was laid Saturday by the Hon. Leslie Frost. "The building now going up is the first of what is hoped will eventually be a group of five building, housing from 900 to 1000 men students," said Principal MacKintosh.



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