

UNIVERSITY BILL EXPLAINED

MINISTER OF EDUCATION DISCUSSED SUBJECT

He Explained Pains He Had Taken to Perfect Measure Before House.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

Yesterday afternoon Hon. Dr. Young, on the second reading of the University Bill, introduced by him, went into the whole question fully. The minister of education is acknowledged to have taken a vast amount of trouble with his bill, and the speech showed that he had made a careful study of the whole question of higher education. The importance of the subject warrants a full report of his speech, which was:

Last year, Mr. Speaker, I presented to this House a bill for the establishment of a university for the needs of this province—a bill, sir, of great importance, not only from the educational point of view, but also and particularly perhaps from the fact that it was the first step taken on the part of the government to carry out the pledge which some time previously they had given to the country, and to this House, in regard to that important matter. And to-day, sir, I present to the House for a second reading a bill which represents as far as this government is concerned, our final stand—final, sir, I mean to add, in the sense that it fully completes the pledges which we have made and which we are now carrying into effect by this measure.

The history of the bills which have been brought before this House during last parliament and this has been somewhat checked, in consequence of the fact that in reality they have involved two schemes—one looking to the establishment of an institution which would extend as far as the University of British Columbia, and the second having directly in view the establishment of a provincial university.

In the minds of many persons in this province, sir, these two projects have been regarded as one, and charges have been made against this government that it was not carrying out its measure which was proposed last year. I am glad to say, however, that the intention of the bill which was introduced in the interest of the Royal Institution of Learning in connection with McGill University. Considerable opposition was offered in 1906 to any steps being taken tending towards the establishment of the Royal Institution of Learning here, and this opposition was based on many grounds. And while it was in part political, it owed its origin and its strength in much the greater degree to what might be termed intercollegiate jealousy.

In British Columbia, sir, we have as a matter of fact representative of nearly all the representative universities of the Dominion, and these gentlemen have, generally speaking, while concurring in any adequate provision being made towards higher education, are all nevertheless actuated by but one sentiment, which is expressed in the following words:

Opposition to Dominion

In the educational matters of the province, by any one institution. At the time when the bill which would have brought about the establishment of the Royal Institution was before the House, the government was inundated with correspondence on the subject, and heard the statements which were presented by many deputations, denominational and otherwise, which represented the different universities in question. And meeting the issue which was advanced by these deputations, the government then made the plain statement to the House, that they had introduced the bill as a government measure for the encouragement of higher education, and that it was not to be under the control of the McGill university authorities in Montreal. This was supported by the statement of the representative of McGill college, and at that time Principal Peterson, of McGill, in a public meeting, which was sent out by the Associated Press entirely disclaimed any intention or any desire on the part of McGill to dominate in any way over its proceedings. We were also, and in the plainest possible manner, informed that they were at the time engaged in the work of carrying out a scheme of university extension which was adopted by nearly all the great universities of the day, and further, that it in the fullness of time we desire to establish our own university in this province they would then at once, both willingly and gladly, step down and out, and turn over everything to our university from the institution, which in order to show their deep interest in educational issues in this province, they have brought into existence and financed, and which moreover is to-day in a very, very good condition indeed. This pledge which was then given on the part of McGill to this government still remains good, and when I had the opportunity and pleasure last summer of meeting Principal Peterson, he repeated that statement, that McGill, when the time came, would turn over the control and management of their own institution in this province to the provincial university whenever it might be established.

I also found, sir, in the East, when acting in accordance with the suggestion of the hon. the premier, I met and discussed this matter with many educationalists. From I met them during my trip, that the debate which had been carried on here in reference to this matter, had still further received the most careful consideration there, and that they were not only greatly interested in, but also were possessed of a thorough knowledge of what was proposed to be done in connection with the establishment of our own institution.

In Toronto, in pursuance of Hon. Mr. McBride's suggestion, I waited on Dr. Falconer, the president of the university, with the view of explaining the exact position of the government of British Columbia in reference to our proposed university as well as these institutions of learning in general in the East. And I then explained to Dr. Falconer that some years ago the city of Vancouver made an effort to secure University Extension.

In connection with a high school. The University of Toronto was the first institution which at that time was approached, but unfortunately, it was because the project was not properly understood in Toronto at the time, or whether it was because they did not wish to entertain it, the letter, which was received in reply to this particular application from the then president of that institution, declined to have anything to do with the scheme, on the ground that as the Toronto university was purely a provincial institution, its funds must necessarily be expended in that province.

But when last fall I discussed this matter with Dr. Falconer, he said that he could see nothing whatever either in their charter or in their aims, which confined their work and operations wholly to the province of Ontario, as he assured me, and I have here say that the strong impression which at the time he made not only on myself, but on a large representative body of the educational world, which were then assembled in Toronto, was that he was both able and willing to carry it out, was that he meant to adopt a very aggressive educational policy, and further assured me that he would be glad to assist us in any way he could, and I communicated to him in my official capacity as minister of education, the views of this province, the views of this government upon the subject as well as the stand, which we proposed to take. Dr. Falconer said that he was very glad indeed to become possessed of this information, and I feel confident, sir, that whenever we may ask for the aid and assistance of the governing body which is in control of the university, we will get it just as freely and just as generously as we could secure it if it came from McGill university.

In addition, sir, I met Principal Gordon, of Queen's university, which is one of the best educational institutions in Canada, and found that he also had the same cognate and the same thorough knowledge of the subject existing here. I fully explained the matter and the views of this government upon the subject to him, and my statements received from him the same kind, the same sympathetic treatment which they had obtained from Principal Peterson.

And going a step further, and in order to show precisely how McGill stands in relation to this question, as well as in reference to educational institutions in general, I wish to read a letter from Dr. Porter, a professor in McGill, who has been in Victoria on the subject of two or three occasions, and who was in charge of the mining school in connection with McGill. I have at different times discussed this subject with him, and he has perfectly and correctly all the points which have been raised. In the light of this letter, written in answer to my request, we have:

An Authoritative Statement,

showing exactly what the position of McGill is in relation to this question. "I wish to preface my remarks with a very definite statement, that McGill has no intention of using its mining school proposals, or the larger Royal Institution of Learning, as a device for securing possession of the educational field in British Columbia. The university of McGill, as a non-political and non-sectarian body, occupies a position which differs from that of any other university in Canada. We are distinctly Canadian, or even Imperial, rather than provincial in our aims and policy. It will be our policy to promote and unify advanced teaching in the east as well as the west, by affiliating local institutions, and by establishing standards which will be maintained by separate and weaker bodies. In attempting what we now propose in British Columbia, we are merely doing what we have done elsewhere, and which work, our experience and prestige will undoubtedly be useful to British Columbia for a few years at least, but when you are in a position to get on without our help we shall quite contentedly drop out. Our proposals are all made with a view to this ultimate separation, and the last thing we want to do is to create a provincial educational scheme of your province."

This comes, sir, from a prominent professor of McGill university, and I do hope that this plain statement will be of help to you in your work. Our experience and prestige will undoubtedly be useful to British Columbia for a few years at least, but when you are in a position to get on without our help we shall quite contentedly drop out. Our proposals are all made with a view to this ultimate separation, and the last thing we want to do is to create a provincial educational scheme of your province."

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During the recess, I may say, sir, that I have come in contact with many of the people who are interested in the educational projects of the province, and I have fortunately found, that a very great change indeed has somewhat recently taken place in public opinion. Previous to this meeting, there was a disposition tending towards aloofness, and a sense, as it were, of waiting the coming events, as well as of not being quite sure of the part that we were really sincere in the exertions which we were making for the establishment of a great provincial educational institution. But rather recently I have been made acquainted with the views of many graduates of different colleges, resident in the province, and am become assured that we can rely upon receiving very great and most material help from them.

Most Material Help from them. In formulating the scheme which we are putting forward in the interests of this province, and that we can confidently count upon the support of all the people who are interested in the interests which in a greater or lesser degree they represent, in this province in forwarding this great educational project, and that it is my object and ambition to bring to a completely successful issue. It has been objected, sir, on many hands that this province is not

yet in a position to support in a provincial university, and that the provincial university ought to be; and that we were merely proposing to establish an institution of learning which would not be necessary for lack of the material with which it can be supported.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think so. I have made very careful enquiries on this subject, not only in this province, but throughout Canada, and I have found, sir, that in the east very prominent indeed is to-day given in their universities to the practical side of learning, and I have further discovered this most gratifying fact that the departments which are devoted to instruction in the subjects which are so intimately connected with the practical side of life, are filled to overflowing.

In Toronto university, sir, in this Dominion of Canada, we have a great and commanding institution for the advancement of learning, with a total of 1,800 students, while more money is demanded in order to make suitable provision for the increased accommodation which will be required by the students of the future. At McGill university, sir, the very same condition of affairs exists. The buildings, which at that institution were destroyed last year by fire, are being replaced, while the accommodations for the students attending in the departments of engineering and of practical science are being doubled in point of capacity. In the case of McGill university with the greater satisfaction because this

Practical Department occupies a most prominent position in the very forefront of our practical education. At McGill university, where only 18 months ago, in the practical department of agriculture, plans were drawn up on the basis of \$1,000,000 for the buildings, and \$2,000,000 for the equipment, under the superintendence of Sir William Macdonald and his advisers, in the expectation that they would meet all requirements for the next ten years, it was found that the month of October last there had already been spent \$1,500,000 more than had been set aside for this purpose; that the buildings, which it was originally intended would have been completed last fall, would not be ready for occupancy until January, and further, sir, that instead of looking forward to an extension of these accommodations some ten years hence, they are now planning, not for future, but for immediate extension. (Hear, hear.) And these facts, sir, give some idea in regard to the capacity of the educational institutions which exist in the Dominion at large.

In our own province the condition of things, as far as our operations and the development of the resources of the country have at the present time, is such that the educational institutions which we have are being extended, and we are not only in a position to do so, but we are in a position to do so with a view to the future. We have, I think, sir, proportionally in a greater degree than any other province, residents who have gone through a university education, and we have, moreover, sir, a more mixed race settled within our borders. We do not have in our midst the Gaelic, the Mennonites, etc., etc., who are scattered throughout the province. We have amongst us people who have been accustomed in their former homes to university work. We are moreover and at the same time in a position to do so, with a view to the future. We have, I think, sir, proportionally in a greater degree than any other province, residents who have gone through a university education, and we have, moreover, sir, a more mixed race settled within our borders.

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teaching body was now, as it were, relegated to the background, and the very strenuous efforts were made in the way of increased endowment and of enlarged buildings, the teaching body as a result became seriously weakened. I have endeavored, sir, to strike a happy mean, and I wish to take this opportunity to express my obligations to

Those Who Assisted

me in this matter while I was in the east. I submitted my views on the subject in the place to Sir William R. Meredith, the chief justice of Ontario, who draughted the Toronto university act, and he, I may say, representing the business end of the proposition, because of business methods had resulted in the appointment of a royal committee by which they were corrected. Then from Principal Gordon, of McGill, I received the kind of advice which one would expect from men who are at the head of the teaching staff of their respective universities, and I have endeavored to give prominence to that element. (Hear, hear.) But taking a middle course and with the advantage of all these able advisers, I have endeavored to draught a bill, according to which the management of the university will be left in the hands of a board of governors, appointed by the government, and the academic side will be left entirely in the hands of the university, which will report to the government on all questions of expenditure. (Hear, hear.)

Under the head of instructions which I have drawn up, and as far as possible, the aims and objects of the university are in marked degree of free prominence to what we may very properly term the academic side of the work, which will be entrusted to the faculties.

The second clause of the bill reads as follows: "A university, to be called the University of British Columbia, consisting of a chancellor, convocation, board of governors, senate and faculty or faculties, is hereby established in the province as a body politic and corporate."

Now, sir, I am well aware that many people are possessed of the idea, that the object of establishing a university is to turn out a lot of lawyers and doctors. And while this was to a large extent true some years ago, to-day the training given in our universities is in great measure looking entirely in another direction. And what the department of education now recommends and what the government is at present supporting, is, that the chief concern of the educational department of the university, should be in full operation, shall lie in the direction of the development of our mines and of our agriculture, as well as of our commerce and industry. We will establish schools, which will bring these departments, and in the most prominent manner, too, to the front and in this way we expect and with the utmost confidence, we will so place at our disposal, for the establishment of these important faculties, as to bring about almost immediately, and most beneficial results. And of course, the government will not rest assured, that we will not fritter away our money in providing an expensive staff of teachers, and in the erection of expensive buildings.

Now, I wish to call your attention to the composition of the proposed governing body. Classes 10 and 11 provide as follows: "The first convocation of the university shall consist of all graduates of the university in the province of British Columbia who are actually residing in the province two years prior to the date fixed for the first meeting of convocation, and who at least six weeks prior to the date of the first meeting, shall have been members of such convocation as hereinafter provided:

"Twenty-five members to be selected by the lieutenant-governor-in-council, and appointed for the first convocation only."

"After the first convocation, all convocations shall be composed of the chancellor, the senate, the members of the faculty, and the members of the board of governors, who shall have become graduates of the university."

Now, sir, there are many men who are interested, and very largely interested, in educational matters, who could not, however, qualify for the first convocation; and it is consequently my intention to pick out 25 representative men from all the different parts of the province, in order that every interest in the province shall be represented in the governing body on the occasion of the first convocation. While classes 21 and 22 make the following provisions:

"There shall be and there is hereby constituted, a board of management for the university, under the name of the board of management of the University of British Columbia."

"The board shall consist of the chancellor, who shall be chairman thereof, and the president of the university, and the members thereof, and nine persons appointed by the lieutenant-governor-in-council."

In this way, sir, we have eulable representation of the three bodies, as the senate is also represented on the board of governors, while the academic body is represented on it by the president of the university. While on the other hand, as in the case of a State University, it is only right and proper, the management of the material interests of this institution will come under the direct control of the government, through the members thereof, and the school teachers, the principals of the Normal schools and all the faculties will be represented, and in this way it will be a very high strain woman, prone to hysteria, and in regard to the case of a murder. Young Gray is a member of a prominent family, a stenographer. For a few weeks he was employed by the city, where he was regarded as erratic,

which, considered in this sense, will constitute a faculty of pedagogy. (Hear, hear.)

It is true that we have at present only one Normal school but with the inevitable increase in our population, their number must also increase, while the pupils in these schools will have all the advantages of free tuition in the arts course. (Hear, hear.)

The university will be non-sectarian, and tuition in the department of the faculty of arts will be free, (hear, hear.) Our proposition is in a few words as follows: We find that we have at the present time in the interior sufficient material for establishing university classes at once, (hear, hear.) And we intend to work in conjunction with the mining school and with the agricultural work, in order to secure pupils for classes in these two important branches. And we further propose extending our High school system by establishing night classes in the interior, (cheers) and thus enable boys who are engaged at work to become pupils of the university. (cheers.)

At the same time we propose to

Establish Scholarships

whereby boys who are attending High schools and who show possession of sufficient ability will be able to continue their course, and not only so but a number of gentlemen who are deeply interested in the welfare of British Columbia have promised to establish additional scholarships, while the leaders of the trades unions who have also become interested, have assured us of their assistance, and have promised to arrange the shifts of work so that boys may be able to attend these classes. The junior members in the different classes will be in a position to assist in the work of teaching and in this manner we hope that we will be able to make good use of most excellent raw material. (Cheers.) Scores of the boys in the interior and in the mining camps are to-day trying to advance themselves through the agency of the correspondence schools, and as school teachers have not the time to attend to them in the manner, that many of these boys while they have abundance of ability, lack the means to secure the better education which they both require and ardently desire.

They are not taking the High school course because this will not increase their earning power from their point of view, but with the provisions which we are now making, their pressing needs will receive the most ample attention.

We further intend in the near future to set aside a sufficient extent of land—between 500 and 1,000 acres—for an agricultural school, with the view of teaching the proper management and handling of the soil, irrigation, etc., in fact everything which appertains to successful husbandry in this great province. This, I take it, sir, is a fair outline of this bill, and of what we propose to do.

Our scheme necessarily means the working out of an immense amount of detail; this has already been provided for. During the coming summer we hope that we will have

Night Schools

in operation, and that in another year night schools will be established in the faculty of engineering.

We will not give scholarships to all, but the spirit of honest competition and emulation that will result from the system will be of inestimable value to the University of British Columbia. The establishment of other faculties will naturally follow and in the near future such as biology, fisheries, etc., in order that the immensely valuable nature of the great natural resources which lie, sir, all around us, may be properly realized and suitably utilized, leading almost inevitably to fully a hundred-fold increase in their exploitation.

Mr. Speaker, I have other matters to lay before the House, but I will reserve them until the bill is in committee. I do not think, sir, that any investigation of the bill will give rise to much criticism. Indeed I am rather of the opinion that its undoubted merits will be the subject of warm approval and of hearty commendation. Mr. Speaker, I have much pleasure in moving the second reading of this bill. (Applause.)

EXPLOSION VICTIMS.

Monaco, Pa., Feb. 3.—The foreigners were killed and six others seriously injured to-day when the boilers in the Welch brick plant exploded. It is reported that the explosion was caused by the accident. The damage is estimated at \$1,000.

"MOTHER IS DEAD, HAVE KILLED HER"

Eighteen-Year-Old Syracuse Boy Announces Dreadful Crime by Telephone.

Syracuse, N. Y., Feb. 3.—Early to-day the police telephone rang and a man who said that he was William H. Gray, jr., called "Come to 441 Burnett avenue. I have killed my mother."

Upon reaching the house the officers found Mrs. Clara Gray, 46 years old, dead from strangulation.

The son, 18 years old, said he had been sitting reading when his mother called him downstairs. When he reached the lower floor he says his mother grabbed her throat and choked to death. He said he was a policeman, and that he was in the police station when he was called by his brother and the police.

To his brother he telephoned: "Mother is dead, for I have killed her." The young man's story is believed by the members of the family and the neighbors, who say that Mrs. Gray was a very high strain woman, prone to hysteria, and in regard to the case of a murder. Young Gray is a member of a prominent family, a stenographer. For a few weeks he was employed by the city, where he was regarded as erratic,

H.M.S. COLLINGWOOD LAID DOWN

Britain's New Dreadnought Is Building at Devonport.

Devonport, Feb. 3.—The keel-plate of the new British battleship, the Collingwood was laid here this afternoon. The vessel will be launched next September.

She will be of 12,500 tons register, and the plans call for an improvement on the famous Dreadnought.

JOHN M'LATCHIE DYING.

Nelson, Feb. 4.—Word reached here yesterday from Calgary that John M'Latchie, one of the best known surveyors in British Columbia, is dying in a Calgary hospital. He underwent an operation, and was not expected to live. He is about 65, and has a wife, two daughters and a son in the family home at Omaha.

DOMINION TO AID NORTHWEST FARMERS

Hon. W. S. Fielding Presents Estimate of \$2,850,000 to Purchase Seed Grain.

(Special to the Times.)

Ottawa, Feb. 3.—Hon. W. S. Fielding presented to the House to-day an estimate of \$2,850,000 for the purchase of seed grain for the settlers of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

The Dominion government will loan \$585,000 to settlers at a rate of five per cent, and until paid there will be a lien on the lands of settlers. The Dominion will also loan \$200,000 to the Alberta government for the purpose of purchasing seed grain, and will also loan \$1,825,000 to Saskatchewan government, being in all \$2,850,000.

REGINA FLOUR MILL DESTROYED BY FIRE

Capacity of Plant 125 Barrels a Day—Loss \$23,000.

Regina, Feb. 3.—The Regina roller flour mill, owned by A. T. Hunter and C. F. Smith, was totally destroyed by fire last night, despite every effort on the part of the fire brigade. The building was completely gutted. The origin of the fire is a mystery.

The mill was an old building, having been erected some twelve or fifteen years ago by Geo. Spring Rice, of Pense, though much of the machinery was comparatively new. The capacity of this plant was 125 barrels per day. The loss is about \$23,000, with a total insurance of \$13,000.

LABOR DISPUTE IS FAR REACHING

Rivalry Between Unions on C. N. R.—Conciliation Board Reports.

Ottawa, Feb. 3.—In a letter to the labor department relative to the dispute of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen on the Canadian Northern Railway, Prof. Adam Shortt, chairman of the board of conciliation, says that the difficulties between these unions is very complex and far-reaching, and cannot be detailed here. The immediate cause of the dispute was the fact that the B. L. E. had received from the C. N. R. an engineers' schedule giving to the officials of that union certain exclusive privileges in connection with the operation of the railway company. The same privileges were demanded by the B. L. E. and because the company declined to grant these in the engineers' schedule there was threatened trouble, resulting in the application for a board of conciliation.

Owing to the strong rivalry between the two unions, if the dispute between the firemen and the railway company had been settled to the satisfaction of the former there would have been no trouble with the engineers. In order to effect a satisfactory settlement of the dispute, it was therefore necessary to have representative engineers admitted to the hearing before the board and allow them to present the claims of their order.

In the settlement agreed upon it was stated that there were two ways in which an engineer who considers he has a personal grievance may place it before the proper officials. He may either come with a committee that represents the majority of the engineers on that road, and this committee shall be testimony to the tolerance and bring such witnesses as are necessary to throw light upon the matter in dispute, or he may bring with him such engineers as he may select to present his case, and these witnesses may throw light upon the dispute, the engineers elected being considered by the company as "perpetual witnesses" of the engineer having the grievance.

In both cases the party having a grievance has the right of appeal to higher officials of the company. Prof. Shortt's testimony to the tolerant and moderate spirit displayed under trying circumstances by the various parties to the complex and far-reaching dispute.

HITCHCOCK TRIAL.

New York, Feb. 1.—The trial of Raymond Hitchcock on charges preferred by the Children's Society, has been postponed until next month. The postponement was made at the request of Henry A. Seaver, the attorney, who said he would suffer financially if Mr. Hitchcock were forced to abandon his road tour before March 6th.

PROVINCE'S FINANCES FOR THE HALF YEAR

Statement of the Receipts and Expenditure for Six Months' Time.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

As set forth in a statement presented to the legislature yesterday, the revenue and expenditure for the six months of the present financial year, ending December 31st, 1907, was as follows:

Revenue.

Dominion of Canada—Half-yearly payment of interest on loan of \$1,000,000..... 14,675.33 Half-yearly payment of subsidy..... 75,000.00 Half-yearly payment of lands conveyed..... 50,000.00 Half-yearly special grant B. N. A. Act, 1897..... 50,000.00 Land sales..... 282,800.96 Land revenue..... 61,875.15

Expenditure.

Starvation fund..... 1,362.85 Rents, exclusive of land..... 117.00 Timber leases..... 28,658.83

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