

Graduates have "unrealistic" expectations

job prospects or graduates' employment, several campus officials have provided *The Labour Gazette* with reports on their experience with employers and 1976 graduates. One experience common almost everywhere is that graduates in education, nursing and several other health professions are having trouble finding professional openings because of government spending cutbacks in their fields.

W.H. Thomas, branch manager of the Canada Manpower Centre at McMaster University, Hamilton, found a noticeable drop in the number of employers who were recruiting on campus in recent years. He attributed this not only to the current labour market but also to the fact that many employers are hiring business or technological graduates of community colleges "and using them in areas where previously university graduates were in fact under-employed."

At McMaster, as elsewhere, arts, health science and social work graduates were not doing well as engineering, computer science, chemistry, commerce and business administration graduates. Chemistry graduates were in "average" demand, and the demand for biochemistry and biology graduates was only "fair". Thomas also noted "very little demand" for graduates in physics, pure mathematics and geology—"a decline from other years."

At Mount Allison University in Sackville, E.D. Boothroyd, manager of the oncampus Manpower Centre, described the picture as "probably no different from other universities across Canada."

"BA. and B.Sc. graduates have been getting little attention from recruiters," he says. "They have no specific marketable skills, and wherever they apply they find others have been there before them." While teaching contracts had been signed by only about one third of bachelor of education graduates, employment prospects appeared "reasonable" for bachelor of commerce gradu-

ates.

The one campus that reports good prospects for its education graduates is Universite de Moncton, largely because they are bilingual and there is a demand for teachers of French as a second language. Some of them, however, would be accepting teaching jobs in Quebec, Ontario and the Prairie provinces.

In its 1976 study of the Canadian labour market, the Economis Council of

Canada found that many young people enter the market "with little appreciation of the world of work" and that part of their job dissatisfaction "seems to reflect a mismatching of their educational training and expectations with the realities of the jobs they are offered."

To young people who have been guided by parents, teachers, professors and guidance counsellors throughout their

lives, it is a particularly shocking experience to have to seek work in the labour market of the late 1970s. They find little consolation in predictions by the E.C.C. and Statistics Canada that job opportunities will improve in the 1980s.

On October 14, 1975, when Prime Minister Trudeau announced the anti-inflation program, he said he was asking the people of Canada "to accept tough limits on their behaviour so

that our economy can recover, so that we can all be much better off than we would be if we allowed the economy to continue along its present destructive course."

Thousands of member of the class of '77 have had to accept the limits imposed on their behaviour by unemployment or under-employment, and they see little prospect of any improvement in their status.

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