

# The Educational Weekly.

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UNIVERSITY confederation is not so hopeful a thing as it seemed when the representatives of the different colleges and universities held their last conference with the Minister of Education. The University of Toronto, Knox College, and Wycliffe College, have accepted the basis. St. Michael's College and McMaster Hall are expected not to reject it. Victoria has adopted it with conditions that perhaps may be accommodated; but Trinity has proposed amendments that we are sure will not be acceptable to some of the confederating institutions, and with other conditions that will scarcely be agreed to by the Government; while Queen's has practically rejected the basis altogether.

THE principal amendment proposed by Victoria, is that compensation should be granted by the Government to all the colleges that incur losses through entering confederation. This amendment is also proposed by Trinity. But the clear destiny of Victoria is removal to Toronto, whether confederation be accomplished or not. In view of this, confederation is a clear gain to her, since in entering upon it she would receive not only a free site for a building, but the advantage of the proposed university professoriat without cost to herself. Victoria can hardly ask for compensation as something indispensable to her acceptance of the basis. But Queen's must do this, and Trinity has a good right to do it since, if Trinity entered confederation, it would necessitate the erection on her part of new buildings nearer the central institution. So in view of a general confederation, Victoria can fairly claim to be put on equal terms with the other two institutions, and demand compensation also. But the compensation, in every case, should be limited to the actual loss incurred in selling the college properties at a price less than their worth for their present uses. Trinity College property is very valuable, and if Trinity obtained in the university park a free site, the money received for the sale of her property would put her, perhaps, in as good a financial position as she is at present.

QUEEN'S has new buildings built for her by Kingston. Their cost (\$50,000, we believe,) does not represent their worth. If the Government assumed the buildings at their real worth, and Queen's returned the money given her for the erection of the buildings to such of the donors as wished it back, she would still have money to the good. Certainly, her friends would rally round her to place her on an equality with the other

colleges, and she would save money by making use of the university professoriat. But these calculations are useless, perhaps, her authorities having determined that she shall remain in Kingston.

THE amendment proposed by both Trinity and Victoria, that the head of the university professoriat shall be appointed by the Government, cannot reasonably be objected to. If the university professoriat and University College remain in the same building, then the Government would always take care that one and the same authority was supreme in the building; or else there would be endless confusion. If these bodies were in separate buildings there would be no objection in having the Professoriat Head and University College President different persons. It would be quite reasonable that they should be different.

To the apprehension of the Corporation of Trinity University, and the Board of Regents of Victoria University, that were the proposed University Professoriat, and the new University College in the same building, *i. e.*, the building at present occupied by University College, then University College would, by its location under the University roof, its proximity to the University Professoriat, overshadow the other colleges, and put them into an unfair comparison with it,—to this apprehension must be assigned the motive of the amendments proposing that the confederating colleges, University College included, shall be placed in precisely the same footing towards the common university; which, being interpreted is, that the University Professoriat and University College shall have separate buildings provided for them. It seems to us that this is an unfair thing to ask of the Government; and for the Government to propose to grant it will certainly lead to the defeat of the scheme in the Legislature. The Government now agrees to ask the Legislature for funds with which to erect a common senate room and common examination hall, and to establish a teaching body far superior to what now exists; and if the amendments for compensation be admitted, to ask furthermore, for a large present expenditure to that end; to ask the Government to do more, and for a mere sentiment, to demand the erection of a new building for University College when there is no *real* need for it, will simply lead to the rejection of the measure by the Legislature.

THE proposition made by Trinity, that in the event of Queen's not entering into the confederation, and Victoria and Trinity entering into it, Victoria and Trinity gra-

duates together shall be entitled to elect as many members of the Senate, as Queen's, Victoria and Trinity would be entitled to under the basis, seems to us unfair, and certain to be opposed by every graduate of the University of Toronto. Mutual trust and fraternal sympathy would never be secured by such an arrangement. The Senate would at once be broken up into conflicting and jealous parties. Representation according to numbers is the fair principle; although there is a measure of justice and reasonableness in allowing representation by corporations for a fixed period.

THE amendments proposing that transfers shall not be made from the Professoriat to University College staff, and *vice versa*, without a two-thirds, or three-fourths majority of the Senate, seems to us just.

ONE other amendment proposed by Trinity demands consideration, *viz.*, that the province shall not, in future, establish any new chair in University College, but that all new chairs shall belong to the University Professoriat, and thus be available for all colleges alike. Were this amendment to be agreed to, it would be tantamount to fixing the status of University College forever—a thing the friends of state education would never agree to.

THE graduates of Toronto are far from being united in favor of the scheme—they will be far less united in favor of Trinity's amendments, some of which we cannot discuss at this writing. The omission, in the basis, of any provision to enlarge University College Residence, will be deemed by them as a very serious objection, especially as all the other colleges will have residences.

It will be as well to state what will be the logical result of a failure to establish some scheme of University confederation at this juncture. The present agitation is the outcome of a demand on the part of the authorities of the University of Toronto, and of University College for increased aid, to provide for urgent necessities. The urgency is not lessened; the necessities are increasing. The provincial government must sustain the provincial system, or fall into discredit with the people. We trust that wise counsels will prevail; that liberal sentiments will obtain in the deliberations of all the governing bodies of the different universities, and that the Legislature, without respect to party, will be just and liberal in settling this, the most important educational question that has arisen in the present generation.