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NEW BRUNSWICK—What's Wrong With It?

Certainly many things are "wrong" in this (statistically at least) second poorest province of Canada. There are few who will disagree with this statement but few who will agree on what things are wrong and what are right.

In our opinion the chief faults of New Brunswick are its lack of opportunity and its lack of imagination. N. B. suffers the fate of a permanently "depressed" area broken only at infrequent intervals by short-lived building booms at times when government credit is easily available in New York. Critics of this thesis will say that the matter is over-simplified, and they would be right because factors of time and space dictate such simplifications.

The time was, however, when N. B. flourished as a prosperous section of British North America. It ceased to be, or was ceasing to be so, quite a number of years before Confederation—tears for that misinterpreted act. We started over that proverbial hill when we failed to convert our sailing ship and carrying trade to steam propulsion and steel hulls.

A prominent spokesman for the New Brunswick government in 1864 stated that shipbuilders regarded the steel hull as nothing but a fad.

Here, then, we find the crux of the situation; the resistance of the "leaders" of the day in our province to change—the renaissance of N. B. aborted. Thus began the long slow decline into comparative poverty and obscurity.

Confederation undoubtedly gave us a further push downgrade and ensuing tariff arrangements between Canada and the U. S. A. operated to N. B.'s detriment.

Meanwhile, however, leadership of the necessary magnitude was not forthcoming from the successive N. B. governments. The trend continued and that precedent of stand-patism established by the Loyalist hierarchy which preceded those governments was maintained. Also, it is well to remember both national strains in N. B. were lacking in a democratic tradition. The Loyalists had fled from the new democracy of the now U. S. A. and the French-speaking element violently rejected the French Revolution.

Good politics is like a good meal—it should be well balanced. That means a "left" and "right" or a "middle-of-the-road" near the fulcrum of the political balance. The only real radical that N. B. ever had was James Glennie who was returned several times from Sunbury County but this was early in the province's life. Lacking the presence of a violent democratic feeling or a radical opposition movement, N. B. became orientated towards the past with the result that instead of recapturing the "good old days" it got itself into a social and economic condition from which it has never been able to evolve.

N. B. next began to export its best brains and with these went inventive genius. Those left turned to exporting our natural resources (defying the laws of comparative advantage in doing so) in the raw state. The process continues today. We exist in N. B. today by two exports: brains and raw materials.

To sum up: we, as a whole, lack the opportunity to reap the harvests of our collective toil because of the short-sightedness and conservatism of our forefathers. But we can't blame it all on those unfortunate people. We have failed to recognize what we must do to reverse the process. Will we recognize it in 1948 or 1968?

This is a plea, that we as a province face up to the fact that we are going to become a province of old people unless we keep our youth here. It is a plea that we as university students—remain here and give our native province that creative spark necessary for its rebirth: that we as youth make our own opportunities here. We must provide the economic, political, and spiritual leadership. We must insist that economic conditions be such that we may obtain credit; we must cease exporting raw materials where it is possible to manufacture; we must provide greater and better educational opportunities to succeeding generations. N. B.'s illness can be cured but it is we the university students who must provide a large share of the will to live and the medicine to maintain that life.

J. K. C. and M. V. J.

EDITOR'S NOTE: If you disagree with this, write what you think in 500 words or less.



"There's a good type for the fraternity!"

"Perfection . . . check! Let's make our opening bid with a Sweet Cap."

SWEET CAPORAL CIGARETTES

"The purest form in which tobacco can be smoked"



LETTER TO VETS From PRESIDENT

Student Veterans: In Tuesday's and today's Brunswickans there is an excellent report of the 3rd National Conference of Student Veterans drawn up by our delegates, Dave Murn, Don Long and Ron Kelly. I urge you to study the report carefully then attend the next general meeting of the Club when the findings and deliberations of the Conference will be the main topic of discussion.

I take this opportunity to thank all of you for your splendid co-operation in completing and returning the Club questionnaire forms before Christmas.

I also say Thank You to the above delegates, John Eouhard, Paddy Doyle, Bob Founds, Ken Rideout and others who gave so freely of their own valuable time during exams, to total, assess and summarize the hundreds of questionnaire forms, and by so doing made it possible for our Club to send to Toronto a well-informed delegation, fully conversant with our problems and with acts and figures to back it up.

JOHN CLARK, Pres. VET'S CLUB



Keep up with the times
and keep

IN TUNE WITH TODAY

Listen each Sunday at
1.00 P. M. for the top tunes
of the week—played by the
top Bands of the land.

Keep
IN TUNE WITH TODAY

DIAL 550

International Debate.

(Continued from Page One).

ception was given in honor of the visitors. Lunch was served and discussion on the international level developed. The UNB team had the pleasure and honor to meet Prof. Ross Quimby of the Department of

Speech at Bates College and one of the outstanding authorities on debate on the North American continent. Norman J. Temple, acting professor of speech was the visit's host.

The UNB team was treated royally wherever it went and experienced the fury of a New England winter on the return trip.

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