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Lack of Prosperity . . . Maritimes Wake Up!

With the emergence of the Gordon Report, Maritime Rights have come in for more enthusiasm, both adverse and sympathetic. Yet it has become increasingly clear that certain segments of our press either do not understand the report, or refuse to understand it. Blatant propaganda has been exposed with charges of quoting out of context; several "authorities" have pronounced judgment on the report, — unfavourable judgment — yet people seem to forget that the conditions outlined in the report regarding the Maritime Provinces are precisely what we, as Maritimers have been using for shot in the ancient cannon of Maritime Rights. Is it wrong that a person from Ontario, came to the same conclusion?

Whether or not the report is justified, or correct I cannot say. I have not read it. However, several points regarding so-called "Maritime Rights" should be considered. To begin with, what exactly are our rights? Spokesmen for the province have demanded "our fair share". Our fair share of what, is not so clear. Presumably they refer to our share in Canadian Prosperity. Yet if a share of Canadian prosperity is calculated on regional contribution, our share would be minor indeed! If our share be based on confederation, it is obscure and incalculable. The most popular conception is that our share consists of a "fair deal" in respect to the rest of Canada. It has been suggested that the more wealthy provinces apportion part of their resources, presumably in the form of financial concessions, to the Maritimes. Hue and cry has been raised for lower freight rates. Yet do these requests hit at basis of the problem?

How much better it would be, if Maritime prosperity was achieved as a result of the Atlantic effort. This effort could take several forms. To begin with, concrete suggestions to the Federal Government for financial support. In other words, actually outline specifically what problems exist, what precisely has to be done, and how Ottawa could help. It's understood that one chronic failure on our part, has been to present concrete and sensible suggestions to the Federal government. For example, the Chignecto Canal project. For years delegations have been treading their weary way to and from Ottawa in an effort to secure aid for the project. Yet, several sources have shown that it is economically not feasible; and further, that any advantages that would accrue to the Maritimes would be considerably lower than the cost. This type of practise should be discontinued. Indeed, delegations should approach Ottawa armed with sensible suggestions to improve the economic conditions of the Maritimes.

As regards Provincial governments, the most obvious thing that comes to mind is the Beechwood Power Project. The dam is designed to bring much needed power to the province. Its inception should herald industrial expansion in New Brunswick never before realized. Yet, assuming that the hydro project proves successful, is this sufficient? Should not the authorities indulge in additional measures aimed more directly at attracting local industry?

Many people deplore the fact that college graduates leave the Atlantic Provinces after University. "Stay here," they say. "Help build the Maritimes!" But what incentive is there for college graduates to remain here. What better course than to go to Ontario or Quebec for a job? College graduates aren't inveterate idealists (or at least, most of them are not). They cannot see the point in waging what would certainly be a losing battle with a sagging economy. Thus it will have to become more evident to those best in a position to increase prosperity in the Atlantic area, that something more than vague promises and idealistic bait are necessary. There is absolutely no reason why we, as Maritimers cannot build our own province. But to do so, definite, concrete and untiring measures will have to be adopted. Perhaps more than anything else, the sluggardly attitude of Maritimers is responsible for this low standard. We have lived so long with the idea of frustrated Maritime ambition, that we are loath to let

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Letter to the Editor

Lady Beaverbrook Residence,
University of New Brunswick,
Fredericton, N.B.
Jan. 15th. 1957.

The Editor,
The Brunswickan,
University of New Brunswick

Sir:

To every University Student, the writing of examinations is of absolutely vital importance; perhaps of equal importance are the conditions under which those examinations must be written.

Surely, a University has a very definite duty in this respect — a duty that consists of ensuring that the conditions under which students write examinations are as near perfect as possible. One would think that absolute silence, excellent lighting, firm tables, strong and comfortable chairs, are all essentials.

Are examinations at the University of New Brunswick written under such conditions? Any student who has gone through the ordeal of writing an examination on this Campus will most certainly know the answer to this question.

Sincerely,
Nicolas Teller

Letter to the Editor

The Editor,
The Brunswickan,
University of New Brunswick.

Dear Sir:

Why are we making such an all out effort to assist Hungarian refugee students? This is a question that one might impulsively answer "We should help these students who are less fortunate than we." Perhaps it is true that these people from Hungary are unfortunate and we at a Canadian university are indeed fortunate, but are we in a position to play Santa Claus? No doubt that most U.N.B. students or most other Canadian University students would not miss another dollar from their pocket; or would they? It has often been said "What is another dollar when you are paying \$389." Say this 40 or 50 times and you have 40 or 50 dollars. Where do you draw the line? But that is not the point I am trying to make, for I admit we are fortunate Canadian university students. But maybe we are becoming blind in our vanity, as we, who are so fortunate and apparently so prosperous shower these poor, underprivileged Hungarian refugee students with free transportation, tours, books, board and lodging, and tuition. Who can deny that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

To our Hungarian friends, who must indeed be impressed with our unselfish generosity and prosperity, it must seem to them that at last they have reached the promised land of milk and honey. Let us hope that they have, and that they will be ever grateful.

Canada is truly a wonderful country, but we must be realistic about our own conditions for a Utopia has not yet been realized. We may live in a "Welfare State", but when it comes time for Canadians to get a college education can we truthfully say that every last Canadian with the ability and desire for a college education invariably receives it? If every eligible and talented Canadian is at this moment having his educational desires fulfilled, then it is a most commendable and charitable act to aid foreign students in achieving their educational goals and at the same time help to fill our crowded universities.

The prevailing argument in support of this present competitive trend among Canadian universities of importing Hungarian talent seems to be its particular availability. As a purchasing agent for a large company might say to his boss "an opportunity like this does not present itself every day." Perhaps there is some truth in this viewpoint, but in this vast and troubled world there must be innumerable potential scholars in equally desperate need of our generosity, assuming that we can afford to be so generous.

A plebiscite at the University may not necessarily provide a true indication as to whether we as Canadian students should help Hungarians, for we are the privileged who are voting, and we are ignorant of the needs of our fellow Canadians, assuming there are any deserving Canadians needy for education, a naive thought.

Of Faith, Hope and Charity — the greatest is Charity, but let us pay our debts first.

Yours truly,
David R. Mount.

Bigger and Better . . .

1957

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