

foundland university would get over these obstacles in great part — and even in the case of the out-of-town student, he or she would be able to complete a university course at a much lower cost than formerly possible, and emerge with a degree from a university peopled, staffed and run by Newfoundlanders, along lines best suited to the development of the Newfoundland character, and with a view to fitting its graduates to cope more successfully with the more obvious problems of our national life.

That has been the trouble with us in the past. All our education, before we got the Memorial College, and after we had it, tended to fit our boys and girls, and young men and young women, for a university education, which could only be obtained at universities in England and Ireland and Scotland, and in more recent years the United States and Canada. Only the well-to-do or the exceptionally scholarly students who captured scholarships could ever hope to complete that education. And when they did, they were being educated on the curriculum of the particular university, which in most cases was moulded to the needs or objects of that particular country. Our students were educated "away" from Newfoundland, not in the mere sense of being out of Newfoundland, but more especially in this sense: as the word "educate" means "to lead out", so "educate away" meant also to "lead away from" Newfoundland, and that's just what happened. The majority of our students never came back; many of those who did were forever more or less aliens.

The possession of our own Newfoundland university would change that position. The main purpose of a university is not simply to confer degrees. Getting a degree is almost incidental — it is just something that comes at the end of the university course, as the mechanic receives his certificate after having served his time. No one will say that the certificate that the mechanic receives is more important than the years of his apprenticeship; by the same token no one should say that the degree is more important than the years of study and training that precede its granting.

In a University of Newfoundland our students could be trained along lines calculated to help to develop and broaden the national life and outlook. They could be educated with a view to the

development of our industries and our culture — our peculiarly Newfoundland culture, which is no more like the culture of England, Ireland or Scotland than it is like the culture of Canada or the United States. It combines them all. There could be connected with the university a school of education for the fisheries. There could be courses on such subjects as elementary fisheries conservation, economics of the fishery, and the countries with which we deal in fish, on processing, on markets. And of course it is unnecessary to emphasise the need for more foundational training and education in connection with research work in the various fields of fishery science.

There is no need to labour the point. There is a need for a University of Newfoundland. Its cost as we have seen is relatively small. The Memorial College must be enlarged. It is bursting at the seams now — it must have a new wing, whether or not it receives its university charter....

The additional cost is so comparatively little that there would seem to be no reason for holding back. I understand that the charter is already prepared and has been in the offices of the government for some time, awaiting popular demand. The popular demand is now being made in full voice, from organisations in all parts of the country. Twenty-five years ago the Memorial College was established as a war memorial to the Newfoundlanders who died in the First World War. It could not be more appropriate than to raise the college to a degree-conferring university this year, as a memorial to the Newfoundlanders — many of them Old Memorials — who died in World War Two.

This year 1947 is a very historic year. The 24th of June next marks the 450th anniversary of Cabot's landfall. It will be a year of great celebrations and events. Again, the time is ripe for the granting of a charter to the Memorial College. Celebrations, fireworks, these things pass away, but an institution of learning remains to enlighten the succeeding generations, and to make their life richer and their hopes more easily obtainable.

I could say a great deal more, but there are others who will echo what I have said, and add what I have left out, so I would conclude with a few words from one of the presidents of the United States, James A. Garfield, who said: "Next in importance to freedom and justice is