

want to make a remark about finance generally. I would like to remind the delegates that the Finance Report is the most important report of the whole Convention, which report lies on the table without a word of comment being made on it — not alone any question of debate. The question of \$20,000 extra would be nothing, but the education grant, generally, is a very big one. What will the people think of us if we made an indefinite adjournment, as I believe is in the minds of the delegates, without giving perhaps two or three days' consideration to this question of finance?.... We are thinking of adjourning, more or less indefinitely, without a word of discussion on our financial position and particularly without any consideration of the chief reason for our appointment, which was to determine whether the country is or is not self-supporting, and more especially, if it will be self-supporting in the future....

Mr. Chairman I have allowed you to go on now for five minutes on a subject which is not germane to the subject before the Chair.

Mr. McCormack On June 24 we shall celebrate the 450th anniversary of Cabot's discovery of Newfoundland, and it is natural that we ask ourselves what progress we have made through the centuries. A country may be judged by the nature of its educational institutions, for from these will come forth the men and women of tomorrow, and if we wish to do anything permanent for our country's welfare we must be concerned about our schools. Our Department of Education has done and is continuing to do a good job. Our teachers are giving invaluable service for small pay. Our system of education is good, but it does not go far enough as our young men and women have to leave the country to pursue higher studies in arts and sciences. The time has come for the Memorial College to be raised to university status.... At present comparatively few can afford to continue their studies, particularly students from the outports who, after paying their way at St. John's for two or three years, find it financially impossible to go on to Canada or the USA.

Our teachers in particular should be given every possible advantage, because on them will depend to a large degree the moulding of our future citizens.

Apart from this, a Newfoundland university would be able to pass on our traditions, and look at current problems with a view to the country's good. Our men and women attending foreign universities cannot get a Newfoundland outlook, and in many instances are attracted away from the country, whereas if they studied at a Newfoundland university, they would become more keenly aware of the country's problems and possibilities, and they would remain to devote their energies to building a better Newfoundland. A university could also be of great value to countless people, other than those seeking degrees, through extension courses.... The granting of a charter to the Memorial College would be the most acceptable way of recognizing the 450th anniversary of our country's discovery.

Mr. Ashbourne Newfoundland should have a university of its own.... We realise that there are those who can afford to travel to other cities and study at the universities of their choice; but there are some who have done this at no little inconvenience to themselves, and even at considerable expense. If there is a university in our midst, and should there be those who prefer to study elsewhere, there would be nothing to restrict them. With a university here I believe there would be many who could be afforded an opportunity for studying for a degree....

The decision of the government to continue the vocational school as a technical school is a progressive move. The need of such a technical institution has been apparent for some time, and the government is to be congratulated in this regard.

The matter of raising of the Memorial College to the status of a university may not be accomplished without some difficulties, yet I have no doubt that whatever the difficulties may be, they will be surmounted and overcome....

[The motion carried]

Report of the Finance Committee

Mr. Cashin A few moments ago Mr. Job drew the attention of the House to the fact that the Finance Report¹ had not been debated. When we

went into a committee of the whole on the Finance Report, it was decided not to debate it at length but to lay it on the table for future reference

¹Volume II:369.