

bring the means of education down to the lowest possible figure. It was urged again, that unless these rival institutions were encouraged, superior education would suffer—that it would be best promoted, and would be kept up to the highest standard when rival institutions were established. Multiplying Universities, it was thought, would be the best means to promote and keep up superior education. In a population of only 1,400,000, there were now seven of these institutions; and he was aware that many of those who were well informed had held that these rival institutions, so far from contributing to keep up the standard of education, were calculated to have an opposite effect—were calculated rather to lower the standard of education than to advance it—and it was held that this was more particularly the case, owing to the fact that these Universities had the power of conferring degrees; and in this way, degrees, instead of being accepted as an evidence of superior acquirements, were rather depreciated and put down as of little consideration. Those opposed to the multiplication of Universities argued—and in his opinion with a good deal of force—that in England for one thousand years or more one or two Universities only had the power of conferring degrees, and now in all England there were, he believed, but four or five having such powers. Hence it had been argued that University College with its doors thrown open to all—where no religious tests were required—having for its Professors men whose eminence was not confined to Canada alone, but was known the world over—and having, besides, Grammar Schools and Common Schools all over the country, it was argued that with the possession of these advantages, Canada stands prominently forward in respect to provision for the primary education of her people, and the superior education of those entering the University. (Hear, hear). These considerations induced the Government to come to the conclusion that they could not recommend a continuance of the grants to colleges. At the same time he believed they came to a correct conclusion when they resolved that it was inadvisable suddenly to withdraw these grants. Some suggested that a year's warning should be given these institutions, some two years, but the Government took the medium course and agreed to continue them for one year and a half, so that the colleges might prepare for carrying on their operations subsequent to that period without the grants. (Hear, hear). To show how large a sum had been taken from the Treasury in years past, for the benefit of these colleges, he might mention that Queen's College had paid them by the Government \$76,500; Cobourg College, according to its own showing, received from the Government \$88,000. Now if any one were