

REPLY TO TORONTO CITIES - Cont'd from last week's News

The College, by the way, saved the taxpayers an enormous sum by getting first-class equipment at very low cost. In-cidentally, both institutions are using TV effectively to provide educational programs for outlying communities, farther from the City of Thunder Bay than Sudbury is from Toronto. We receive virtually no extra funds to travel over these enormous distances.

I was interested to read that the Faculty at Laurentian University have problems with five-year forecasts. We face the same unreasonable requests - the Minister, through his slide-rule wielding henchman Douglas Wright and his faceless wonders the Board of Regents, asks us for reams of statistics at impossibly short notice: even the larger institutions have difficulties in preparing them; but the small ones suffer most having to devote too large a proportion of their small incomes te fighting this paper war, with scholarly work being corres-

pondingly short-changed. Now, may I write a few words about Lakehead University? So far from being the comic opera institution the correspondent saw during his brief visit, we have a faculty, facilities and students of international calibre: our products almost invariably do well when they go on to post-graduate or pro fessional work at more senior universities. As for our course being irrelevant to the north, we cannot work in a vacuum, and although we do our best, we cannot create the demand (which at present is virtually nil) until our colonial governments in Toronto and Ottawa have a change of heart. For example, it is a national disgrace that the CYC is the body that has brought radio to our native peoples; while our national broadcasting system, explicitly charged with that responsibili ity does virtually nothing to meet the need. Our young people do not want courses relevant to the north because they recognise the cynical neglect of the north; and apart from teaching and a few mining and forestry jobs, they need education for cont'd next column the word outside.

If they want to be doctors, dentists or lawyers, they have to go south, because we are not permitted to establish these badly needed northern schools. We have been permitted to develop degree schools of nursing and forestry.

As for research, theostory that we are not interested in or encouraging northern research is nonsense. We have grants of approximately \$200,000 per annum, a large fraction of which is spent on northern research - the character of Lake Superior, the growing habits of wild rice, the physical characteristics of local paper products, the pollution of northern air and waters, the catalytic properties of nickel products are a few of the projects, carried out by firstclass men with the support and co-operation of a wide range of industries and government departments. The President had high hopes of the Director of Northern Area Studies, Professor Dawsonl but with the exception of a few small grants for some young men, Dawson has been unable to achieve a viable unit, for the simple reason that nobody particularly wants to work with him. He is embittered as a result; and I would say that the reporter took his bait, hook, line and sinker. The President has shown an earnest of his support of Northern research by providing a highly efficient analytical laboratory which is unique in Canada: this laboratory is available to all local industry and has not had the publicity it deserves.

We, like all universities have a group of faculty members and students who have developed destruction as a way of life. Of course, we have real internal problems, but it is quite unfair and false to characterise either the University or the College as timid. Is flying four hundred miles north to teach Indians timid? Is the building of a first-class university in such an unlikely place timid? Were the faculty who have given up homes, in their native lands to cross the seas and teach in relatively unknown parts, timid?

I agree with a faculty member from Laurentian on another point - the images of Sudbury and Thunder Bay are appalling, and we find great difficulty in attracting Canadian faculty, for city-bred Canadians are apparently agoraphobic and fear our wide-open spaces. On several occasions, prospective faculty members have been advised by our immigration officers overseas not to come to Northern Ontario, "as it's all mines, snow and railway yeards"! imagine the Toronto article has tarnished our image even further: our recruiting will be made that much more difficult.

The reporter missed the most glaring observation of all that is, the incredible effect that the University and
College have had on the district. The benefits have ranged
from the obvious one of providing an unimpeachable standard
of education, to an amazing enrichment of cultural life. This
is quite apart from the money-generating function: funds
that used to travel with the students to Southern Ontario
are spent locally. Without the University and College, the
local employment picture would have been very sad over the
past two or three years.

What is needed is a new look at our whole northern problem. If ever educational institutions needed support, it is those in the Northland. The "educational dollar" spent in the north is a minute fraction of the total provincial educational budget: instead of knocking down valiant efforts to establish these vitally needed but highly vulnerable institutions, we look for a realistic level of support from the province. We cannot possibly achieve what appears to be demanded of us unless our per capita income is doubles. In the meantime, we devote our efforts to giving northern students a first-class education, and providing our faculties with the facilities they need on a pathetically small budget.

John Hart.

DO YOU KNOW - that varnish can last a lifetime, if it is oiled regularly and kept away from direct heat and sunlight.