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CANADIAN APPLICATION FOR SCHOOL CHARTER RUNS INTO BUREAUCRACY

One of the present-day tendencies in Canada is, paraphrasing Tennyson, to make the bounds of freedom narrower. More and more types of business are being subjected to licenses, more and more individuals are required to pay an annual tax (miscalled a fee) before they can exercise their God-given right to earn a living.

We have run foul of this tendency in our efforts to secure a charter for our Henry George School. Education is a matter for provincial jurisdiction in our constitutional set-up, so our negotiations are with the Province of Ontario. Last year's session of the Legislature passed an Act to regulate trade and vocational schools. Any organization offering educational courses relating to trades or vocations must be approved by the Department of Education, must pay an annual fee of \$50 for its basic subject, plus \$10 for each additional course offered, and must put up a security of \$1,000 with the Minister. All of its advertising literature must be O.K.'d by the Department. Because there have been numerous rackets in educational courses, the state must save the fool from his folly; the good enterprise suffers with the bad.

The application for the School charter was duly made by our solicitors. I had

an interview with the official who administers the Trade Schools Act; he told me that he had once won a debate in which some arguments taken from "Progress and Poverty" prevailed. I assumed we had a friend at court.

But, "the days grew into weeks, the weeks to months," and no charter was forthcoming. I spent some time around the government offices, where I learned that our supposed friend had put something like this into the report to his chief: "I do not see why this long-advocated theory should receive an incorporation." So this was the trouble. I wrote a letter to the Deputy Minister pointing out the progress that this "long-advocated theory" had made in the British Empire, quoting chapter and verse, and especially how it had been up in the British House of Commons as recently as February 15, 1939.

A few days later our solicitor reported: "We've just had word that the Department of Education has passed the application, so we can now file the necessary papers." Before long we should receive a document with the royal seal, and the "College of Economic Science" will be launched. We hope for a smooth voyage.

HERBERT T. OWENS.