

# The Varsity

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News Editor for this issue: A. R. M. Lower.

TORONTO, JANUARY 17, 1912

## SELFISHNESS.

Why is it that so many of our University and College societies and organizations are continually clamouring for support? Why is it, for instance, that the Union does not fill a more important place in University life? Why is it that the U.C. Lit, supposedly representative of perhaps 800 men, very rarely has an attendance over 80? Why is it that the attendance at the Military Lectures has been so small that there is a possibility of their being discontinued here, and given at some other University, after this term? These are only instances, there are plenty more. Again, why?

It is hard to escape the conclusion that the average undergraduate is, in his University life, lamentably selfish. His main ambition is to get all he can out of his Alma Mater, and in return to give her as little of his time, thought, and energy, as he possibly can. If he thinks that by devoting a little time to University affairs he is going to receive some direct benefit, in the way of experience and knowledge to be turned later into dollars and cents, he will consider the matter. If not, the fact that the lack of his support may stifle a movement—be it club, society, or special course—probably of great benefit to others, matters not at all. He is out for himself; and, be it noted, in a very materialistic and short-sighted way. He does not realize that working for the University or his College, the one who gets most benefit from his work is himself; not material benefit, perhaps, but none the less real, and far more valuable.

This short-sighted, selfish spirit is greatly to be deplored at the University; but it is infinitely more so when it spreads, as it has spread, into our national life. It is this spirit that causes the constant appeal from the pulpits for "men for the Christian ministry"; it is this spirit that makes politics the poor—too often, disgraceful—business it is; it is this spirit that keeps our militia battalions mere skeletons. Too many of our most able men have not the unselfishness to devote themselves, even partially, to the service of the public in these ways. We cannot help thinking that the main reason why so few men take up these tasks is that "there is no money in them." About the Church we hesitate to speak; suffice it to point out the great number of Englishmen who fill our pulpits in Canada, because Canadians have not the same earnest, unselfishness. About politics, however, we speak with more freedom. In our humble opinion, there is only one really first-class man in Canadian politics. This is surely a sad state of affairs. Why do not more really able, honest, hard-working men go into this public service? The obvious reason is, that they can make more money otherwise. What a shame! What a reflection on the "patriotism" of Canadians, that this should be the case! The early stages seem to be in the University.

The military part of the public service also demands our attention. How very few of the men whose services are most required, will take the trouble to learn even the rudiments of the science of war! Have you ever thought of the present state of Canada as regards defence? Get a few facts, and think about them for half

an hour. The result will surprise you. Men, more men, is the constant cry of every regiment.

Men of Toronto, that selfish, sordid spirit has to be fought, and it has to be fought right here in the University; in every College; in every man. Try being public-spirited for, say, a week; no; make it a month. Work it up. If Toronto is to make her mark in Canada, that is how she can do it. Begin by being loyal—unselfish, energetically loyal—to your class your clubs, your College, to Old Toronto Patriotism will follow.

## COMING "CITIZENS."

"Toronto University is a sort of glorified high school: in it the majority of the students don't know their own minds, and the rest have no minds to know."

Once before in these columns we have quoted the above words, uttered by a prominent alumnus of the year '00. The question of the justice of his accusation comes very prominently to the fore at the present moment.

On Saturday evening last, Professor Stephen Leacock, Head of the Department of Economics in McGill University, a graduate of Toronto and Chicago, an author of international reputation, a humorist, an orator, a recognized authority on current events and modern movements: in short, a man almost without peer in those fields which are of greatest interest to the undergraduate irrespective of course, and department appeared before us in Convocation Hall to deliver a lecture on "The Universities and Citizenship," of all subjects in the world the one most appropriate to the thoughtful, earnest, vigorous mind that we as undergraduates fondly imagine we possess. And to this combination of a master intellect and a theme of the most profound importance to the youth of the Dominion, advertised as it was weeks ahead of the event, fewer than one hundred undergraduates paid enough attention to walk across the campus to listen. That is to say at a time when every man is passing through the most formative period of his life, and preparing himself, ostensibly, for the state of "citizenship" of which Dr. Leacock was speaking, twenty-nine thirtieths of our number indicate that they have practically no interest in this vital problem.

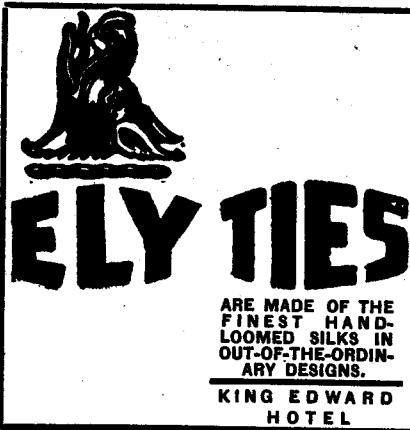
And yet strange as it may seem over two thousand of us can yell our team to victory, and three hundred people are turned away from a Mock Parliament, which, in comparison with Saturday nights event is a triviality bordering on provincialism.

Is not our alumnus right? Would it not appear that our University is doing little in the way of instilling the ideas that are going to dominate our lives? No man will for a moment deny that the ultimate consideration in a college course is the ethical impetus to be acquired in the pursuit of knowledge, and in the contact with hundreds of intellectually active young men, and yet, apparently, we can afford to ignore the very pearl which might be ours.

Is it lack of time? Is it lack of basis? Is it lack of organization? Or is it just downright laziness and irresponsibility on our part that prevents a greater degree of thoughtfulness among us? Oh! for men of ideals and convictions, be they anything from mild-eyed vegetarians to confirmed atheists! Where is the God of Things as They Ought To Be? We need his influence.

## ONLOOKER'S CORNER

Call a man a gay dog, and he smiles. Call him a dog, and you rue the day. Call him a cynic, and although he deny it, he will be tickled; and you are his friend evermore. But when I call a man a cynic, I am politely calling him a snarling, back-biting dog. Now, there are a good many cynics in our midst, who are most annoyingly canine in their derision of all things English. In the cynic let us demand consistency, as we demand it, say, in a dog, when we forbid it to climb trees. He must, then, point to his own legs scornfully, and snort—because his trousers are neither of American width nor of Parisian volume, but quite of English moderation. The cynic must go to the theatre and howl down the best drama and the finest talent that comes to the city. He must criticize the best fiction, the best essays, the best journalism that there is. If he refuses this crusade, he has no more claim on the atmosphere which he now fills with bathetic attacks on English ideas. But fix your cynic with a glittering eye, and ask him



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in a voice trembling with emotion: 'Do you suggest that we adopt Yankee ideas and methods?' He will turn pale, and reply lamely: 'No, we will be wholly Canadian!' I expect to see him dancing about in skins, armed with an axe, with his face painted yellow.

THE ONLOOKER.

## BOOK REVIEW

A little volume entitled "The Ethics of Freedom", consisting of selections from the lectures and notes of the late Professor George Paxton Young has been brought out by Professor Hume. It is neatly printed by the University Press, and has a good halftone picture and copy of signature of Professor Young.

In the brief introduction Professor Hume calls attention to the very interesting fact that in a lecture published by Professor Young in 1870 he anticipated and stated the central teaching and main principles of the treatment of the same problem of the Freedom of the Will in Green's Prolegomena to Ethics which was published 14 years afterwards in 1884.

This book should be much appreciated by graduates of the University of Toronto. It can be procured from The University Press or from Professor Hume. One Dollar post paid.

## DENTAL AT-HOME

On Friday evening, Feb. 2, the students of Dental College will hold their annual At-Home in the Assembly Hall of the College. This is the greatest event of the year. The Dental At-Homes of other years have been great successes, but this year promises to excel all others. The committee is working hard, getting ready and we hope everyone will turn out on Feb. 2 and help them to make it successful. Mr. Russel Beare's Orchestra will be in attendance from 8.30 to 2. Remember the date, Feb. 2.

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The Commandant and military instructors are all officers on the active list of the Imperial army, lent for the purpose, and there is in addition a complete staff of professors for the civil subjects which form such an important part of the College course. Medical attendance is also provided.

Whilst the College is organized on a strictly military basis the cadets receive a practical and scientific training in subjects essential to a sound modern education.

The course includes a thorough grounding in Mathematics, Civil Engineering, Surveying, Physics, Chemistry, French and English.

The strict discipline maintained at the College is one of the most valuable features of the course, and, in addition, the constant practice of gymnastics, drills, and outdoor exercises of all kinds, ensures health and excellent physical condition.

Commissions in all branches of the Imperial service and Canadian Permanent Force are offered annually.

The diploma of graduation, is considered by the authorities conducting the examination for Dominion Land Surveyor to be equivalent to a university degree, and by the Regulations of the Law Society of Ontario, it obtains the same examinations as a B.A. degree.

The length of the course is three years, in three terms of 9 1/2 months each.

The total cost of the course, including board, uniform, instructional material, and all extras, is about \$800.

The annual competitive examination for admission to the College, takes place in May of each year, at the headquarters of the several military districts.

For full particulars regarding this examination and for any other information, application should be made to the Secretary of the Militia Council, Ottawa, Ont.; or to the Commandant, Royal Military College, Kingston, Ont.

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