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POLITICAL SCIENCE IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO—AN ANSWER.

A writer in the Globe a few days ago gave an account of the London School of Economics and Political Science, and, incidentally, made the statement that "no Canadian university at present makes much more than a pretence of research throughout this great field (Canadian) of sociological institutions and phenomena, which stands temptingly inviting to the earnest student." We may as well admit immediately, with him—indeed has not Premier Ross lately told us so—that a faithful, earnest study of Political Science and Economics is most important to our national life and well-being. How far, then, if at all, is his statement, quoted above, true of the University of Toronto?

It is, probably, not far wide of the mark. Good work is done from year to year in the Department of Political Science in this University, but little research work is attempted, apart from what may be carried on inside the professional studies. In the hurry and bustle of undergraduate work the student has little or no time to devote to research work, although it should be remembered that in the ordinary course of his studies he does attempt limited researches, which often take him quite far afield into undigested material. The aim here is not so much to attain a positive result in research as to gain a working,

practical knowledge of the methods of research.

Aside from this, the University has each year two students doing special research work in this department as holders of Mackenzie research fellowships. Here some valuable results are not infrequently attained.

Research work of wider extent is at present impossible. The staff, as regards numbers, is inadequate. The Department of Political Science, with one of the largest departmental enrollments in the University, has but five instructors. One professor is actually giving seven distinct courses of lectures; others are doing more than should be required of them. To do effective undergraduate work the staff should be increased. As research work, to be efficient, should be closely supervised, it is readily seen that, if it is to be carried on, a very considerable increase of the staff, over and above that which is now almost imperative, is necessary.

This University has in the past been a pioneer in the study of Political Science in Canada, and to-day our Canadian institutions are, as a consequence, the subject of much careful attention on the part of the undergraduates. While it is certainly desirable that this undergraduate work should be most thoroughly done, and that a large and efficient staff should be maintained for the purpose, I hesitate to advocate at present—as the writer in the Globe by inference does—special research work on a much more extensive scale than is attempted. I very much doubt whether, at our state of development, the proper students could be obtained.

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