

ORA ET LABORA

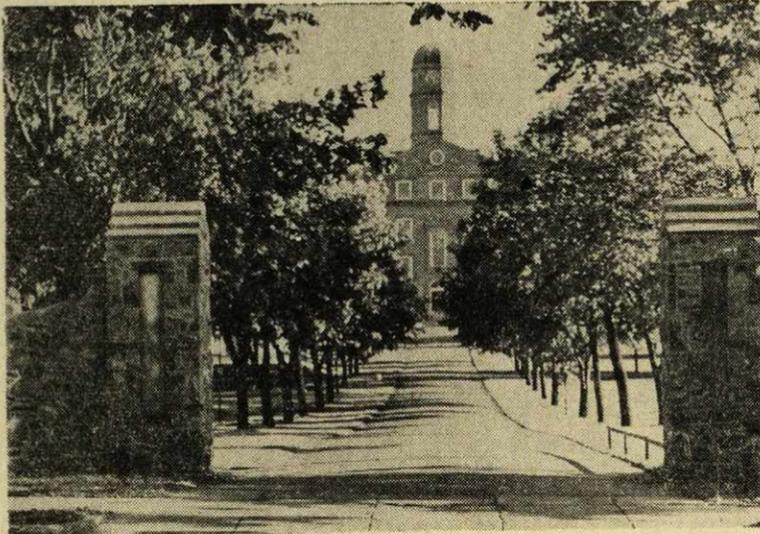
"Dalhousie College was an idea prematurely born into an alien and unfriendly world, deserted by its parents, betrayed by its guardians, and throughout its minority abused by its friends and enemies alike." The above statement, taken from Dr. D. C. Harvey's History of Dalhousie, indicates that our College-By-The-Sea was not established without a struggle. "Its history" he says, "Can not be dissociated from the struggle of democracy against monopoly and privilege in church and state: for the idea of Dalhousie was that of a college that would be opened to all regardless of class or creed. . ."

In the early part of the nineteenth century general educational opportunities were class restricted. "It was because Howe regarded the mental and moral cultivation of the whole people as the surest foundation for progress in agriculture, commerce and industry, and perceived the "Capital of the mind" in the cottage of the peasant as well as in the castle of the nobleman that he strove so valiantly for the province-wide culture and democratic self-government." (Harvey)

George Ramsey, ninth earl of Dalhousie, projected his ideas of a liberal non-sectarian college. The idea "clashed with both the exclusive Church of England college at Windsor and the freer now essentially Presbyterian academy at Pictou." Though met with such opposition and even failure at first, Lord Dalhousie is accredited for "the inspiration of his conception, the enthusiasm with which he strove to found his college and the matchless language in which he set forth his ideas", which proved to stand as a challenge to the existing order.

The cornerstone of the building was laid May 20, 1820, by Lord Dalhousie. There followed a fervent appeal for financial aid. However, at this time there was many denominational colleges established throughout the province and efforts to unite them in a college at Halifax were unavailing. College union was as difficult a proposition as church union.

In 1838 Pictou Academy joined forces with Dalhousie, Dr. Thomas McCulloch, its Principal became President of Dalhousie. But, in 1843, Dr. McCulloch died and the college closed its doors, re-opening again in 1849 partly due to the efforts and enthusiasm of Joseph Howe, who, in the end, proved to be the true interpreter of the Dalhousie idea. "When Dalhousie did finally go into operation unobtrusively as a college and had proved



Dalhousie University

its worth, it gathered around it members of the learned professions, and became a real university to which not only members of different denominations but graduates of the denominational colleges have come to finish their education."

In 1863 the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces and the Church of Scotland of Nova Scotia supported three chairs, and sixteen years later George Munro began a series of gifts, chairs, and scholarships. In 1866 the first degree of Bachelor of Arts was awarded.

In 1868 the faculty of medicine was established and in 1878 the faculty of science.

In 1881 the first annual Munro Day was celebrated and in that year also women were admitted to the university.

In 1885 the Reverend Dr. John Forrest was appointed President.

In 1912 the faculty of Dentistry was established.

In 1920 the construction of Shirreff Hall was begun and in the following year construction on the Law Building commenced.

In 1923, a "long contention" ceased, and one of the happiest events in Dalhousie's history occurred. The University of King's College, the oldest University in Canada, moved from Windsor to Halifax and affiliated with Dalhousie. A distinctive feature of King's College is its "residential" life, which continues its old tradition, and which was originally based on the Oxford tradition, as Dalhousie was modelled on Edinburgh.

1931—Dr. Carleton W. Stanley was appointed President. The temporary gym (on present Men's Residence site) was destroyed by fire. The construction of the new gymnasium was begun.

In 1932 the gym was completed. Mr. Hector McInnes was appointed Chairman of the Board of Governors.

In 1937 Mr. J. McG. Stewart was appointed Chairman of the Board of Governors.

In 1938 the cornerstone of the

Many things have Changed

The Editor is to be commended for her initiative in planning and producing this special number to celebrate the NINETIETH ANNIVERSARY of the founding of the GAZETTE. It indicates that our undergraduate newspaper is being promoted today with the same kind of imagination that brought it into being at a time when no other student body had yet ventured to publish a paper of its own.

The Gazette came into existence in the day of small things in Dalhousie. The College was still located on the Grand Parade, and all its activities were accommodated in a single building. The University Calendar for the year 1869-70 reports a total registration of two graduate students and sixty-four undergraduate students in Arts. The Principal was the Very Reverend Dr. James Ross, who made an important contribution to the development of Dalhousie. The teaching staff consisted, in addition to the Principal, of five professors and a tutor. Although the number seems insignificant by present day standards, a faculty that consisted of Lyall in Logic, "Charlie" MacDonald in Mathematics, "Johnnie"

Johnson in Classics, Lawson and DeMille in History and Rhetoric formed a company of scholars who together represented the true meaning of a university. They helped to determine the distinctive character of Dalhousie, and the ideals that they espoused have remained an inspiration and a challenge to the University through all the intervening years.

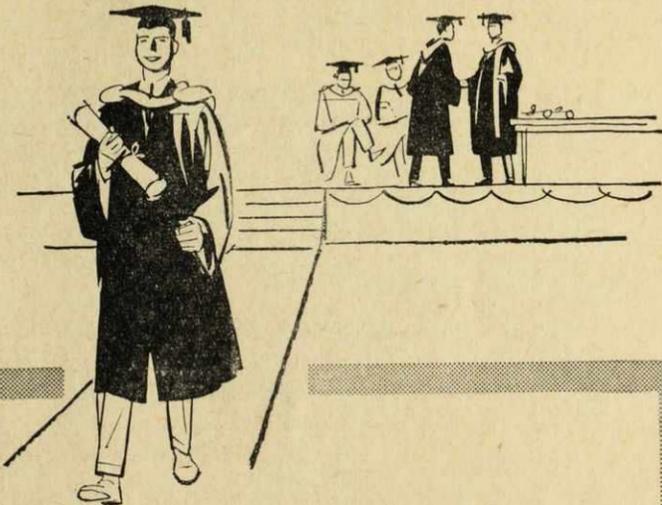
The last ninety years, which this special edition of the Gazette invites us to review, have seen changes of profound and far-reaching significance in the way men live. There is no space in this brief note to recall the progress that has been made, particularly in scientific knowledge and its application to practical uses. These advances and their effect upon our civilization could hardly have been anticipated even by the men that I have mentioned. James DeMille offered a modest anticipation of science fiction, and "Charles" had a humorous lecture about A Trip to the Moon, but they never supposed that such a fantastic journey would ever become the object of serious scientific endeavour. One of my present colleagues has told me that an eminent professor, a man under whom he studied here, was regarded as almost infallible in his judgments within his own field of Chemistry, concluded his final lecture to one of his classes with the admonition that his students should not be beguiled by the current journalistic preoccupation with the splitting of the atom, because it simply could not be done. Many things have changed, and time has made many an ancient good uncouth. But the best thinking that is currently being done in University education recognizes the wisdom of the view that all real progress must in due proportion combine permanence and change, and the true university must provide for both.

In the familiar language of Scripture, its philosophy must do justice at the same time to the fact that there are old things that pass away, and that there are also things that cannot be shaken. It is our hope that a fair judgment of Dalhousie today will credit her with an endeavour to combine both these considerations in her philosophy.

This is not the place to attempt a report on the present life and work of the University; but a five-year review is presently being compiled and I think it may give substantial satisfaction to all Dalhousians and assure them that the Board of Governors and Senate of the University are endeavouring to see that the University develops in the degree that may be necessary to meet the growing demands of society, and to provide the youth who study here with foundations upon which they can build careers of usefulness and honour.

In closing, I venture to suggest that this special issue of the Gazette to celebrate its ninetieth year will be regarded as a preparation or a still more ambitious edition in the year of its centenary.

A. E. KERR,
President, Dalhousie University



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