

THE VARSITY.

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TORONTO, November 19, 1902.

THE outcome of the investigation into the conduct of the police on Hallowe'en has been generally satisfactory to the students. The prompt justice which was meted out by the Commissioners will restore the confidence in our police department which the conduct of some of its men bid fair to destroy.

After duly weighing the evidence the Commissioners condemn the action of the police in no uncertain terms, and make the "amende honorable" to Dr. Reeve and to the students.

In the course of their decision they say: "The Board are of the opinion that the sergeant and his men were not in any sense justified in using their riding-whips as described in the evidence. * * * This violence was entirely unjustifiable and an unwarrantable abuse of their powers, and the Commissioners feel bound to express to Professor Reeve and his associates and to his students their sincere regret that their officers committed such a grave error of judgment."

We have no desire to dwell on what must be to all an unpleasant subject, but we protest against having every act of hoodlumism committed on Hallowe'en ascribed to the students, as was attempted by the police at the investigation. We need only refer to the charge that Principal Hutton's windows were broken last year by students to show the absurd lengths to which the police went in their attempt to make out a case.

Four officers were fined for disorderly conduct on Hallowe'en, yet no one would suggest that the police comprised the whole of the disorderly element let loose on that occasion. It is equally unjust to include the students in sweeping generalizations.

As we have said before, we do not believe that the students of the University of Toronto were implicated in any serious or malicious destruction of property. The extent of the damage brought home to any of our students has been trifling; and, as was shown in our editorial of two weeks ago, our men were in no way connected with the trouble on Yonge street after the theatre. As in the case of the Medical Students, the police found it easier to take for granted than to find out the facts.

It appears that the effect of the decision of the Commissioners may bear more heavily on the constables affected than was anticipated. The students have no desire to see the police suffer any special hardship. Their only idea in pressing the investigation was to clear their reputations, and have defined their rights. They are content with the verdict and would be sorry to see the offending officers deprived of a future increase in pay, should they resolve to be good henceforth.

The football game on Saturday with the Argonauts was a striking vindication of the Burnside rules, at least from the spectators' standpoint. The close-massed play with the ball lost from sight in scrimmage after scrimmage, into which the ordinary game too often degenerates, was entirely eliminated. From start to finish the play was open and the ball always in sight. The game bristled with long kicks, brilliant catches, sensational runs and splendid tackles. The spectators were kept on the "qui vive," and the game never flagged in interest for a moment, except for a few Argonaut supporters on whom the strain was too great. It is quite evident that under the new rules, speed and skill in catching and tackling are the chief requisites. The heavier, but older Argonauts were simply out-classed by the lithe young sprinters in blue and white. Weight, which counts so much in the American game, is met by the stringent rules against off-side interference. It is to be regretted that the Intercollegiate Union did not give the new rules a trial. There can be no doubt that their adoption would greatly revive the waning interest in football and add much to the prestige of the C.I.R.F.U.

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The young gentlemen of the Toronto Church School are publishing a very bright little paper called The Owl. THE VARSITY welcomes this solemn contemporary and wishes it a long life and a merry one.

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The Literary and Scientific Society of University College, or The Lit., as it is popularly called, is making a new record for attendance and interest. The executive have very wisely emphasized the debate as a feature of the society, and the selection of such engrossing topics for discussion as "The Reform of the Senate," "The Coal Strike," "The Ontario Liquor Act," "The Canadian Tariff," etc., has resulted in an attendance which is most gratifying. The Lit. is the one place around the University where the Undergraduate can get that training in parliamentary practice and facility in public speaking which every educated man should have. The men of the lower years will do well to become regular attendants of The Lit. The society meets every Friday evening in the Students' Union and men from all Faculties are always welcome.

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The Hon. J. D. Cameron, ex-Attorney-General of Manitoba and one of our distinguished Graduates, of whom we shall have more to say later, in a recent address advocates the establishment of a department of Political Science in the University of Manitoba as a means of solving the tariff question in the West. It is gratifying to find a man acquainted alike with the possibilities of the university and the needs of public life thus appealing to the university to instruct public opinion on a question of such absorbing national interest as the tariff.

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An Order-in-Council has been passed appointing Professor McGregor Young lecturer in Constitutional History. This is in addition to his present work in Constitutional Law and relieves Professor Mavor of this subject. We are pleased to see that the University estimates for the present year make provision for an increase in Professor Young's salary.