

factors which colour the background of Dr. Klinek's life.

When I met him first, close to sixteen years ago, he had passed the stage of apprenticeship, as it were, though he would be the last man to think, much less to admit, that this was the case. His school teaching days were over, he had graduated in Agriculture from the University of Toronto, had made a name for himself on the other side of the "invisible line" at Ames, Iowa, and had been called to the chair of Cereal Husbandry at McGill University by that prominent educator, Dr. Jas. W. Robertson, who at that time was the head of Macdonald College. His work centered on the Cereal Husbandry Department embracing the study of soils and crops, which, in the modern terminology, is called Agronomy. His Philosophy was of a practical kind, which dealt in facts rather than in fancies, in experiments carefully conducted and meticulously recorded, rather than in undue speculations. It is a philosophy which never rests, which has never attained, which is never perfect. Its law is progress. A point which yesterday was invisible is its goal to-day and will be its starting post tomorrow.

Though he does not consider himself a connoisseur, he takes a great interest in and comfort from music, and his appreciation of sculpture and architecture is far above that of the ordinary. Nevertheless, and on the whole, he is an outstanding example of the maxim that honesty of purpose is the best policy, honesty backed by plain every day qualities, industry, courage and faith. A solid man, not without brilliancy, imagination and scholarship, he has risen to one of the highest places in a profession in which these qualities, taken each by itself, are perhaps more common than in any other department of life. It is the triumph of character, the reward of the diligent apprentice, and the regard of sterling worth.

None of those who knew him was surprised, when, at the time of the organization of the new university, the then Professor L. S. Klinek was constituted dean of the Faculty of Agriculture to be. Incidentally, he has never applied for any office or position. The situation always called him; when he became Professor Klinek, as well as Dean Klinek and, finally, President Klinek. That is how he has been known subsequently for twenty years. Few people, outside his more intimate friends from student days,

have known him or called him by his first name, and I doubt very much if his fellow Rotarians—Rotary is one of his few weaknesses—even are aware that his name is Leonard, and I am positive that only the most daring among them ever slap him on the back and call him "Len."

The great strength of the man seems to lie in his unerring choice of men; in his ability to gather round him men of initiative and scholarship. This has been one of his never-ending tasks and how well he has accomplished it is shown best by the record and accomplishments of staff and students. To quote his own words before the Vancouver Institute in February, 1924, "Concisely expressed the President's first duty is to secure the right men. His second duty, which is like unto the first, is to make it possible for them to succeed. In these two principles are summed up the Law and the Gospel of University Administration."

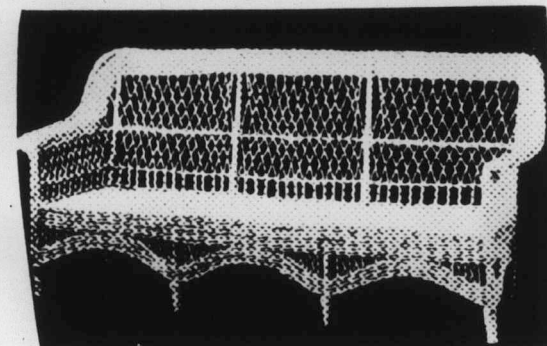
The character, foresight, intellect, eloquence, and human interest of the man are best summed up in a few words spoken by him at Guelph, Ontario, following the Dedication of Memorial Hall by Sir Arthur Currie:

"To the undergraduate body and to the alumni, the ceremonies of the day have a corporate as well as a personal interest. They, too, have made their contribution; they, too, have a record of sacrifice of worthy achievement—achievement expressed in a form which reveals their desire to acquire knowledge and to pay fitting tribute to those unseen forces which spring from a deep-rooted conviction in the supremacy of moral forces in the life of individuals and of nations.

"In this corporate action have the students and the alumni attempted to liquidate a part of their debt to their Alma Mater; in such action is the basis for enduring academic allegiance, laid; in such action do great traditions have their birth. Reverently, humbly, and yet with conscious, justifiable pride, do we dedicate this Hall to the memory and to the achievement of the fallen. To us this memorial means much; to our children and to our children's children it will mean more; to us it is a thing of beauty; but withal, it is the child of our own fancy, the product of our own imagination, the object of our own creation. Hence the personal obtrudes itself; detach-

ment is impossible; perspective is defective. But with succeeding generations this will not be so. What we do to-day will have a deeper significance for them than it has for us. We congratulate ourselves on the accomplishment of a worthy task; we rejoice in the completed work of our hands; we pronounce it good; but we cannot love it, we cannot venerate it as they will come to do. To us it is a symbol of sacrifice; to them it will be in very truth a sacred shrine; and in it shall generations of students yet unborn bear glad perennial witness to the fact that the fathers of the Semi-Centennial period builded better than they knew."

To the young men and women of the University of British Columbia no better example could be given. It is well for every one of them, and for us, to take to heart that genius, profound scholarship, and wisdom do not alone secure the lasting esteem and regard of those among whom we act and speak and live; but that the world, in spite of its apparent indifference, never fails to be impressed by the beauty of a devoted life and the dignity of a virtuous and spotless character.



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