

about 50,000 people on the bank of the South Saskatchewan River, was selected for the University's location and the first two colleges established on the 2,000 acres of land purchased were a College of Agriculture and a College of Arts and Science. Courses are now offered leading to most of the usual university degrees, except that only pre-clinical years of medicine are available. The Department of Extension is very active, its chief function being to supply agricultural information to farmers by means of printed bulletins, films, radio broadcasts, lecturers, demonstrators, young farmers' clubs and short courses of specialized instruction in rural centres. The University regards itself as a people's university and as such it provides a summer school, various correspondence courses, and a Women's Work Department which supervises and conducts at the University and throughout the province all types of activities of special interest to the women of Saskatchewan.

### The University of Alberta

The University of Alberta, like that of Saskatchewan, is almost as old as the province. Teaching began in Edmonton in 1908 with 45 students, four professors and no buildings; work was carried on in rented rooms in one of the city schools. There are now seven faculties and five schools (including a School of Graduate Studies) which, during the 1949-50 session, provided instruction for about 6,200 students. The University is supported by the province and is non-denominational, although St. Stephen's (United Church) and St. Joseph's (Roman Catholic) are affiliated colleges, together with the provincial Institute of Technology and Art at Calgary. Research and teaching in agriculture were early assignments given the University, and it is interesting to note that a survey committee in 1941 reported that because of the University's work in agriculture the farmers of Alberta are saved more than \$7 million each year. The University, however, has endeavoured to be universal in its interests and achievements, and courses are now offered in music, art and drama. The School of Fine Arts held each summer at Banff in the Rocky Mountains in a situation of spectacular natural beauty, has gained a nationwide reputation for the courses offered in all aspects of the theatre and in art, music, handicrafts, and oral French.

### THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

The University of British Columbia at Vancouver, although established by a vote of the Legislature in 1890, did not begin its work until 1915. It is thus the youngest of the provincial universities, but in the past decade has expanded more rapidly than any of the others. Thirty-five years ago the University counted about 400 students among its members; its full-time enrolment in 1944 was about 2,400; more than 7,500 students were registered for the 1949-50 session, while a further 2,000 made part-time use of the University's services. This rapid growth is largely due to a post-war influx of veterans but also reflects the remarkable growth in the population of the Pacific province in recent years.

After the first World War, the accommodation provided by the University was overcrowded in much the same way as it was during the years 1945-50. The manner in which this situation was remedied, and the present site of the University established, is unique in Canadian university history. Construction of the nucleus of the University's present quarters was begun as the direct result of a student-organized petition, to which 53,000 citizens had signed their names, which three members of the student body laid before the Legislative Assembly in 1922. From this undergraduate initiative and achievement derived the complete self-government which has continued to be a feature of campus life.