

Bolshevicks on Council ?

The Commerce Society gained official Council recognition on April 1, 1921, several months after it was organized. The same meeting went on to make several supplementary grants and to assign the balance of funds for the purchase of athletic equipment. Tradition was broken by a decision that the Council photograph be taken with the members not wearing gowns. Finally, Council asked that a better location than the MacDonald Library be found for Convocation.

The final 1920-21 meeting of Council on May 4 delayed action on a bill from the university for repairs to the football field. Appointments were made and appreciations expressed. The following summer Mrs. Eddy died, to the deep regret of all students.

The new Council had its first regular meeting on October 14, and immediately acted on a YMCA request to investigate installation of a canteen in the Murray Homestead. This was Council's first brush with food service. One of the first motions was that all routine Council business be left to the executive. Its significance is seen in the three month gap before the next meeting. This was after nine years during which Council usually met every week. Past Councils had often reversed their early decisions, this one made a mistake that was not so easily reversed. The Board of Governors was thanked for lowering war veterans' fees upon student request. Commerce was granted its seat on Council, which it still has today.

In October, the traditional complaints about Murray Homestead heating began. GAZETTE felt that Council/Senate friction was once again becoming too great. This time the friction was attributed to the failure of both organizations to adjust their relations after the war. Some Council

members were accused of being Bolshevicks. In November Professor Fraser Harris attempted to resurrect the pro-gown movement which had battled vainly throughout the 1890's to put Dalhousie students back into "academic dress".

On January 9, 1922 the Council met again. It dealt with substantial amendments to the budget as it was adjusted to allow for the expense of a series of hockey games that Dalhousie played in Boston. Without debate the Council heard and approved the president's report on routine business since October. It was decided that there would be a referendum on increasing the fee from \$5.00 to \$10.00, mainly for athletics. Further action to get veterans' benefits was approved and action to collect campaign fund pledges was halted. Council also asked Senate to send a committee so that recent misunderstandings could be discussed.

The GAZETTE finally used its editorial columns to attack the Council, on January 18. It pointed to the "great discontent" and declared that, "our entire system seems to be in a state of complete stagnation." The Council did little but fine students and obey the Senate, neglecting its other duties and rarely meeting. Its presence on campus was so thin that individual students were urged to start picking up the activities.

Dalhousie opened a temporary Gymnasium late in January. It was a wooden structure on the Studley campus, built on foundations that were prepared for a permanent Arts building, when it could be afforded. The new building was used mainly for dances and university assemblies.

February 16 Council meeting failed to respond to the criticism of its performance. Over half of the meeting was spent on disciplinary questions,

especially the ban on smoking in the new gym. There was also a matter of alleged impudence towards Professor Bronson. After arranging for the elections and the Council photograph, the members approved a special committee to investigate Council's financial administration. After \$500.00 was granted to societies the meeting asked the Finance Committee to make a special report at the next meeting. For no apparent reason the Council declared that women should receive the same punishment as men for university offences.

The GAZETTE, after complaining that the upcoming vote was likely to be the quietest in years, proceeded to give more coverage than ever. There were two complete pages. Much of the space was occupied by a plea for the increased fee. It was pointed out that societies had received only half of their requests, that the basketball team had not been able to play elsewhere, that there was no gym staff, and that all of this had happened in a year when there was an unusually low number of demands on the Council. The plan for new financial administration was also put forward as a reason for the increase. There was a review of the 1912 constitution's weakness and a list of proposed reforms and policies.

In the elections six of the old Council members were re-elected and Norman MacKenzie was soon appointed President for a second term. The students voted for a \$7.00 fee, and the Treasurer published a special statement indicating that unusually high attendance at sports events meant that there was enough money in the bank to finish the year.

NOTICE OF REFERENDUMS AND ELECTIONS ON WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 30



STUDENT UNION FEE REFERENDUM on alternatives for increasing Union activity through a fee increase starting in 1975-76

A PART-TIME STUDENTS REFERENDUM on becoming Student Union members

SENATE BY-ELECTION to fill the rest of a one year term

ARTS STUDENTS' ELECTION of officers of the new Arts Students' Society