

# THE VARSITY

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## Editorial Comments.



THE Senate has recognized the justness of the memorial of the lecturers in Latin, French, German, Italian and Spanish for representation on the Councils, and has requested the Government to take steps to secure such representation.

An expression of opinion on the part of the Senate having been asked by the Government, that body, the necessary expression having been obtained, will doubtless immediately proceed to carry out the views of the Senate. The principle being virtually accepted, the only question now to be decided is that of how the necessary representation can be given. Two modes of procedure are open. Amendatory legislation may be introduced whereby, contrary to the present law, lecturers may be allowed on the Councils as well as professors, or the present lecturers may be appointed professors. To our mind the latter is by far the best and fairest plan.

The Act provides for professorships in Latin, French and German in University College and of Italian and Spanish in the University of Toronto. These places must be filled some time, and now seems a very opportune time for so doing. By appointing the present lecturers to the vacant professorships the department in question will receive the representation they require. What need is there then for any further legislation?

It is but justice to the departments hitherto without representation that professors be appointed. They are probably the largest in the College, and, without a doubt, of the highest importance. Their close connection with the whole school system of the province gives them an importance far beyond the other departments, and makes it imperative that they should be most adequately equipped. As to numbers, everybody knows that there are more honor students in Moderns than in any other department, while Latin has more pass students than any other. Under the new curriculum this superiority in numbers will be even greater than at present. What reason is there for not giving such large and important departments the same status allowed to others?

Moreover, it is simple justice to the present lecturers. Why should amendatory legislation be necessary in their case and not in that of those in charge of Political Science, of Chemistry, of Orientals, or of any other department? In suggesting that such is necessary in the present instance there seems to be a reflection on the lecturers; but if so, the reflection goes farther—to the very University of Toronto, as it so happens that the gentlemen in question are all graduates of that University. They have been in sole charge of very important and difficult work for a number of years; nothing has been, nor can be, said against the manner in which they have performed their duty; they are our own graduates, and yet they have been forced to occupy an inferior position. As to salary, they make no demand. To those who know how the Moderns men are obliged to

work, it seems very strange that they, with more lectures than any others in the College, should receive the least pay. This state of affairs as regards position and salary has continued long enough, and a change is absolutely necessary. Justice to the University of Toronto, to its graduates, to the departments, to the lecturers and to the students, demands it. It must not ask in vain.

We are glad to observe that the movement towards the formation of a Classical Association has now taken definite shape. A circular has been issued by Mr. Hutton and Mr. Dale calling a meeting of the Classical Masters of the Province in the Biological Building on December 29th, at 8 p.m. The splendid success which has attended the efforts of the Modern Languages Association justifies the expectation that similar results will follow from the organization which will then be formed, especially when we consider that the necessities of the situation are even greater than in the case of Modern Languages. Nothing less than a complete revolution in methods of elementary classical instruction is required if the languages of Greece and Rome are to retain their place in our educational system. The first and greatest difficulty is to remove the prejudice against them which the hard, mechanical, lifeless method hitherto obtaining in our High Schools has naturally produced in the minds of a majority of those who seek higher education. This can only be done gradually by the inauguration of a rational system in which pronunciation will occupy as important a place as it does in the study of Moderns, and which will, therefore, make the beginner know and feel that he is learning a language, not deciphering hieroglyphics. The present situation is critical, and the efforts of the Classical Association will be watched with deep interest by all who have faith in the educative value of the ancient languages and literature.

We have learned of an incident which occurred during the past week which emphasizes the remarks made in a recent issue on the evils arising from "Duality of office in the University." In the first year there are a large number who wish to pursue an honor course in Science. The curriculum allows all such to substitute Hodge's Course in Scientific German for a portion of the work in Pass German in both the first and second years. A petition signed by more than twenty Science students was presented to the lecturer in German with the very reasonable request that provision be made for lectures. The petitioners met with a refusal, and are thereby deprived of what was and is their right. They must either worry through the work with the undesirable prospect of a "star" in the spring, and great disadvantages in their course, or attend lectures in German, which will not be of so much practical value to them in their course. This action was doubtless due not to Mr. Vandersmissen's unwillingness, but to the impossibility of his devoting any more of his time than at present to German. With the new fellow in Moderns this may be changed, but it is clear that as regards the interests of the students duality of office is a curse.