

GEORGE MUNRO

First Great Benefactor

By Melville Cumming, B.A. '97, LL.D. '19

Dalhousie does well to commemorate the life of George Munro by setting aside a day each year, March 9, as Munro day and granting, on that day, a university holiday. Measured by dollars, there have been greater benefactions but the Munro benefaction was outstanding because it was given at a time, 1879 and immediately succeeding years, when Dalhousie was in such dire straits financially that it was feared its doors would have to be closed and the then college cease to be.

Commencing in 1879 George Munro contributed to Dalhousie some \$350,000 endowing 5 chairs known then and up to the present time as George Munro chairs. These were the chairs of Physics, History, English, Philosophy in Arts and the chair of Constitutional and International Law in the Law School. The amount was ample to cover costs at the time when professors' salaries were in the vicinity of \$2000. per annum, but although the endowment is still in existence it provides only part of the present costs.

The first occupants of these George Munro chairs were men of unusual distinction who added much to the prestige of the College. The first was Dr. J. D. MacGregor who afterwards succeeded Prof. Tait as Professor of Physics at Edinburgh University. The next, Prof. Alexander who was appointed to the Chair of English and later became head of the English Department at the University of Toronto. Following him was Prof. Jacob Gould Schurman appointed Prof. of Philosophy who became afterwards President of Cornell University and later Ambassador of the United States to several countries. Next was Dr. John Forrest appointed Prof. of History who was shortly afterwards made President of the then university and continued in that capacity until his resignation in 1911. In the Law School, Dr. Richard Chapman Weldon was appointed to the Chair of Constitutional and International law and afterwards Dean of the Law School. His reputation was such that he attracted to the Law School outstanding students not only from Nova Scotia but from as far west as British Columbia. Among the many of these who achieved great distinction were Sir Richard McBride, one time Premier of British Columbia and R. B. Bennett who arose to the Premiership of Canada and later as Viscount Bennett became a member of the House of Lords in England.

In addition to the chair endowments, George Munro provided over a term of 10 years, commencing in 1880, ten bursaries of \$100 each annually and five exhibitions of \$150 each annually for applicant students who passed prescribed examinations. The exhibitions were awarded to the five students who stood highest in the examinations and the ten bursaries to the other ten. As an instance of men who benefited by those awards Major J. W. Logan, well-known to present day Dalhousians, held an exhibition

of \$150 during each of the four years of his undergraduate course at Dalhousie. Evidencing of how these scholarships contributed to the cost of studying at Dalhousie, \$200 annually covered all the expenses including class fees, books and board for the writer who entered Dalhousie two years after the Munro bursaries and exhibitions ceased.

The George Munro contribution were brought about through the influence of Professor Forrest, afterwards President of the University. George Munro's wife was a sister of Dr. Forrest.

George Munro was born at Millbrook, some seven miles from Westville, Pictou County, on November 12, 1825. His father was a successful farmer who raised a family of four boys and six girls. After attending the common school at Millbrook George, at the age of 12, entered the office of the Pictou Observer to learn entered the school at New Glasgow and later studied at Pictou Academy. He taught in Pictou County for four years, two of them in New Glasgow. He was then appointed as teacher of Mathematics at the Free Church Academy in Halifax and succeeded to its Principalship, remaining for five years. During this period he, along with his other duties, studied for the Presbyterian ministry.

The writer was frequently told that George Munro preached one sermon in Chalmers Church, Halifax. He vowed at the conclusion never to undergo the ordeal again. It is the writer's opinion based upon personal contact with George Munro that, although he possessed a good mastery of English, he recognized in himself a lack of fluency and fervor, essentials of great preaching, though the writer has been told that a throat affection contributed to the decision. After taking up residence in New York, he became a member of the well-known 5th Avenue Presbyterian Church.

In 1856, at the age of 31 years, he settled in New York entering the Appleton Publishing Company. In a short time, he entered business on his own account. His great contribution to the reading public, highly commended by the New York Nation, was his providing them with great literary production at prices within their means. He founded, in 1867, The Seaside Library which included the best fiction, essays and other literary productions through which he had a wonderful influence in educating the masses and developing in them a taste for good literature. Incidentally, the publication of many of these works was made possible by there being at that time no system of international copyrights.

The writer had heard it said that George Munro was also a publisher of the then widely read dime novels but there were published by a brother named Norman Munro who also became a wealthy publisher.

As an innovator, George Munro, in addition to establishing the Seaside Library, built for his publishing business a building at Vandewater Street that was eight stories high and was, at the time

Favourite Color?

Whats' in a color? Nearly everything, the psychologists tell us. If the color is your favourite, it can tell the secret passions of your soul; if you see a color which is out of tune with your personality, the psychological effect may be strange and wonderful. It is not without intent that Dr. Williams' pills are PINK.

Anyway, here is a list of colors out of which you may pick your favourite. Unerringly, the accompanying description will fit your personality.

RED. Red is the color of the physical plane of being. If this is your favourite color you are an extrovert, though in the absence of others you may show your true timidity. Living life to the hilt is your main occupation. You are courageous, impulsive and vigorous. But beware of BLUE people! It would be better to marry a red, or an orange personality. Lord Byron was of your color.

ORANGE. This is an unpopular color, so if it is your favourite you are indeed a rare bird. Food is your speciality, but not any food—you have the palate of a gourmet. Naturally, parties and society life mean a great deal to you; your laugh is engaging and you love to meet people. Don't let people tell you you have no sense of humour—it is there—to be developed. You make the ideal bachelor.

YELLOW. Yellow is the high intellectual colour of Buddha, Kant and Confucius. You have the lofty pure mind of a philosopher, but you are not an idle dreamer. You long for the admiration of others, and would do well married to any color type. GREEN indicates a smooth, amiable disposition. You are inclined to let people walk over you. You fall in love easily, but I regret that this chart cannot help you clear up the many broken love affairs at your feet. You lack courage, not through timidity but rather through "sheer bone laziness." Either green or red mates would be best for you, red preferably because such people possess the initiative you lack. Don't feel discouraged—Shakespeare was one of you.

BLUE. You are an introvert, and inclined to be icy and disdainful. Probably you have Scandinavian ancestry. When you sin, your conscience bothers you, but you go on sinning just the same. You are a good student, sober and cautious—outwardly. Your inability to be outwardly uninhibited bothers you. You are likely to have a few good friends rather than a lot of pals. How other people can stand you is a mystery. If a male, you prefer red or orange girls, because your suppressed emotions lack stimulation. After marriage, however, you are usually disappointed and want to change her.

PURPLE. This is the color of the mysterious, enigmatic person. Mona Lisa was undoubtedly one (unless she had really just had all her teeth pulled.) You are an artist of uncertain temperament, a genius who does not cultivate his mind to the full. Yellow people are your ideal mates.

BROWN. This is a dull color, and indicates a rather dull and

homely mind. You are the person who is always being accosted by others who think you are a friend of theirs, because there is a sameness about you which makes you look like everyone else. You think virtue is the rock of life, and would make an ideal mate for anyone who could appreciate your conservative virtues.

The colors you wear must be chosen with care also, because if they do not harmonize with your own coloring and disposition (see above) your whole life may be ruined.

A few simple rules may help: RED is a powerful sex stimulant. Beware of using too much of it, ladies! You must wear it sparingly, as you wear perfume.

SCARLET especially is an animal stimulant, but will remedy the blues and senility.

Cercle Francis To Hold Gala Evening

On Tuesday, March 16th the Cercle Francais and the French department of Dalhousie University are presenting a gay group of French plays and songs under the direction of Professor and Mrs. Chavy and Professor Aikins. Although this may present a challenge to those who are not versed in the French language, anyone with a tolerable knowledge of French will have no trouble understanding the plays and songs, and others who know no French but want to come will be sure to enjoy themselves. The programme will be:

HUMULUS LE MUET, a farce by Jean Anouilh, one of the best-known modern playwrights, and the actors taking part are Eileen Kelley, David Millar, Peter Jones, David Murray, Judy Keystone, Margaret Linnehorn, Bends Murphy, Betty Morse and Julie Dabson.

A NOUS LA LIBERTE, a group of French folk and popular songs. **LE CURE DE CUCUGNAN**, a story by Alphonse Daudet adapted for the stage, with the actors Ernestine Pace, Robert Keystone, Kempton Hayes, Carol Vincent and Alan Yeadon.

SISYPHE ET LA MORT, a one-act play by Robert Merle, the 1949 winner of the Prix Goncourt, one of the most coveted literary awards in France. The actors are Ted Rountree, Nancy Wickwire, John MacDonald, Colin Bergh, John Nichols, Bill Hill, James Donahoe and David Bryson.

The Soiree will begin at 8 p.m. and will take place in Room 21 of the Arts building. So come along!

of construction, the highest building in New York. He also built the first modern apartment house in New York City. It faces Central Park and bears the name "Dalhousie."

NOTE:—Dr. Melville Cumming was requested to write this article because he is one of few now living who knew George Munro and because, by reason of

George Munro's brother William marrying his aunt, he frequently heard accounts of members of the Munro family, including George. Dr. Cumming was President of the Dalhousie Alumni Association in 1911 when Dr. Forrest resigned as President of the University and spoke at the testimonial banquet given at that time.

Notices

The Personal Finance Company intends to expand its Maritime Division by opening offices in a number of Maritime communities. The Company is looking for Arts graduates to staff its various branches.

Interested students who expect to graduate in May should communicate with either of the two officials listed below to arrange an interview:

Mr. David Alexander, Field Supervisor, 82 Portland Street, Dartmouth, Phone 6-2724; Mr. W. G. Hagerty, Branch Manager, 11 Prince Street, Halifax, Phone 2-6404.

LOST:—A Sigma Chi Fraternity pin, initials J.A.H., '56, engraved on back, somewhere on the Dal Campus. Finder please return to the Gazette Office.

On Sunday morning, March 14, Canterbury Club will hold Corporate Communion in King's Chapel. Time of service is 8:30. There will be breakfast in King's Dining Hall after the service.

Life

Oh Life too short, too short to do all that which we would, And yet, perhaps, in this brief moment of elusive Time We may accomplish some few deeds, which though they may be small

Yet be they for the betterment of our fellow man Then they are great indeed. So therefore, ere our threads of life are spun, We must arise and meet this mortal world, And with a steadfast hand and forward thought Mold our purpose to follow Him who taught.

—R.A.

MED CORNER

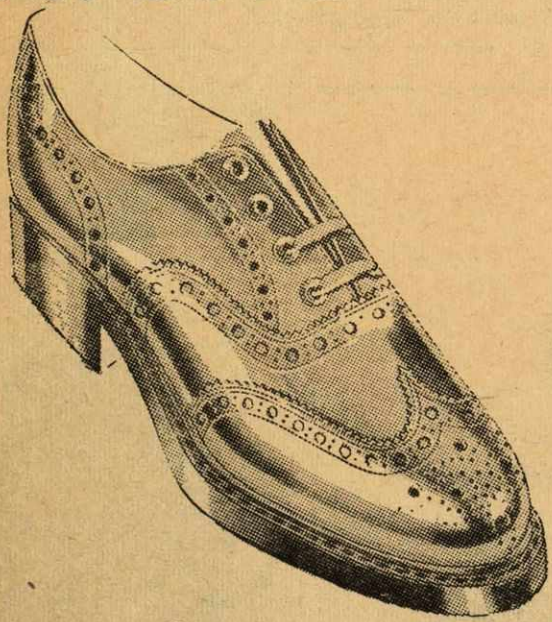
The hockey team won both its games last week with the play of Don MacKenzie being a big factor. The team squeezed by Commerce 3-1 in the first game with Don Morris, Phil Murphy and Don MacKenzie scoring the goals. These three were the pick of the forwards while Eddie Lund played a stellar game in the nets.

In the semi-final "sudden death" affair the team shellacked Engineers 8-1. Don MacKenzie and Gord Dimock led the attack with two apiece while Don Morris, John Williston, John Smith and Bob Murphy notched singletons. Morris, Dimock, MacKenzie and Williston all played well up front as did John Smith and Bodo Epstein on defense. This was easily the best game of the year from the Med's standpoint with everyone playing fine hockey.

The "B" basketball team lost both its games last week 29-27 to Pinehill, and 34-30 to Law.

This past year saw a successful inter-fac program due in part to John Williston's fine work as sports manager. In addition to coordinating Med sports he coached the hockey team, managed the "A" basketball team, and played hockey and rugby. John also secured the services of "Arpy" Robertson and "Baz" Palmeter to coach the basketball teams. The "Rocket" was assisted by managers Ed Grantmyre (rugby), Mort Aranoff (basketball), Tiny Bonnik (ping-pong), Bob Parkin (volleyball), and Art Lesser (hockey). This column was written by Art Lesser.

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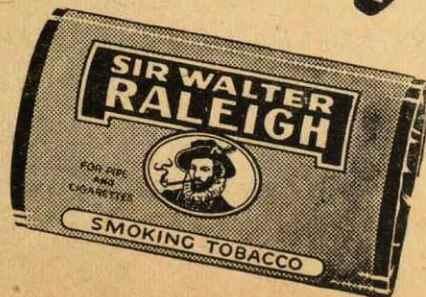


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