

# DALHOUSIE Gazette

AMERICA'S OLDEST COLLEGE PAPER  
Member Canadian University Press

Published twice a week by the Students Council of Dalhousie University. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Students' Council. For subscriptions write Business Manager, Dalhousie Gazette, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Phone 3-7098.

Editor-in-Chief  
**CHARLES W. MacINTOSH**

Managing Editor ..... Frank Hall  
Business Manager ..... Jim MacDonald  
Circulation Manager ..... Dave Anderson  
News Editors ..... Bill Ingarfield, Benny Goodridge  
Reporters ..... Barbara Davison, Max Haines, Ethel Smith, Heather Hope, Betty Livingstone  
Features Editors ..... Barbara McGeoch, Jim MacDonald, George Cross, Fred Neal  
Features Writers ..... Thomas Rogers, George Cross, Sis Nichols, Moyra Seegar  
Sports Editors ..... Don Chittick, John Potts  
Reporters ..... Ralph Medjuck, Joanne Beaubien, Red Finlay, Bill McCready, Martin Smith.

## Throw Them Out

Next week the Dalhousie Glee and Dramatic Society will present the Shakespearean tragedy "Romeo and Juliet".

This is one of the greatest pieces of English literature ever written, but much depends upon the atmosphere of the play.

As was proved last year, during the performance of "Othello", it is very difficult to maintain an atmosphere of suspense and drama if members of the audience constantly interrupt the play with remarks and loud comments.

During the student night there is a general tendency among certain members of the audience to make a boisterous running commentary on the play as it progresses. This may be quite amusing to them, but it spoils the play for the rest of the audience.

Anybody who speaks out of turn during Dalhousie stage performances in future should be thrown out.

A little consideration for the actors and the rest of the audience is something that should be expected from college students. Let us not have a repetition of the interruptions which marred "Othello" for so many.

## How to Write Letters

The GAZETTE, like every other newspaper, receives a number of letters to the editor each week.

There are not as many as there should be, and to help remedy this situation, we print herewith the rules for writing letters to an editor.

All letters should be addressed to: "Editor, Dalhousie Gazette, Dalhousie University, Halifax."

They may be either mailed or left with some responsible person at the Gazette Office.

Letters to the Editor should be typed, double space, but this is not essential. If a letter merits it, it will be published so long as it is legible. Any person whose handwriting is not plainly legible should type when writing a letter intended for publication.

Letters should be signed. A number of letters are received each week without signatures or with pseudonyms. They are rarely printed. If you do not wish your name to come before the reading public you can say so in the letter, but no responsible editor prints many letters written by people who withhold their names from him.

There is even a hesitation to print a letter whose author he knows but whose name he is withholding from the public. No person should be ashamed to express his views; and any person who does so should not have such little confidence in his own opinions that he is afraid to sign his name to a letter.

Letters should be of a decent length. They should not be over two typewritten pages in length, or approximately seven hundred words at the outside.

Silly and untimely letters will not be printed, nor will abusive attacks upon any persons.

In short, if you use common sense and discretion in writing a letter to the editor it will most likely be printed.

## The Universities of Canada

PART III  
H. L. STEWART

Change in the personnel of the teaching staff reflects this change of atmosphere. It is an open secret that Chairs and Lectureships in Arts and Science Faculties are now very hard to fill except by a lowering of the qualifications which were formerly required. One Canadian President put it quite frankly when he said "Anyone that can read and write has a good chance to be on our staff now!"

Return of the undergraduate Universities, proportionately far more than England, Scotland or Ireland. Obviously French-speaking and English-speaking sections must have separate academic organizations. The assignment of education to provincial, not federal, control multiplied still further the variety, and the conflict of Churches led to the establishment of Universities definitely distinguished Anglican, Presbyterian, Catholic and Baptist. Effort after effort to reduce the action of these divisive forces has been ineffective; it has been defeated by the mutual distrust, provincial or religious, and by the alarm of communities at the threat to local business through a measure of "centralization". Within the last thirty or forty years, schemes not to unify but to federate Universities have made some progress, as a means of warding off academic bankruptcy. A powerful unifying force was that of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, whose munificent aid to Universities in Canada was reserved for such as were — or would consent to become — "undenominational". Of late an appeal for federal grants has been urged by University Trustees, with a new hopefulness that, since it has been abrogated in so much else, the British North America Act will no longer remain in the way of getting help from Ottawa for provincial Colleges.

But so far it is thus financial advantage, not a uniform academic standard of greater educational efficiency that seems to be in the mind of these vociferous reformers of our tradition, and the number of degree-granting institutions in Canada has actually been increased within the last two years. The three Maritime Provinces (Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island) with a combined population not very much over a million had until recently twelve Universities! This number was last year increased to fourteen and there is a rumor of one soon to be set up in our tenth Province at St. John's, Newfoundland. Needless to say, the value of diplomas of all sorts, coming from quarters so numerous and so different, is subject to fluctuation like that of a debased coinage, but proposal of an academic "Gold Standard" would have no chance against the prevailing mood of antagonism, like that of Sanday Mackaye in "Alton Locke", cursing all aristocracies — the intellectual aristocracy no less than any other.

One should, I think, recognize that the so-called "Professional Schools" — Medicine, Dentistry, Law, Engineering — enjoy a certain immunity from the damage done to Arts, and in that respect make the Canadian picture somewhat brighter. Board of Governors, with President or Principal who is their economic agent, are afraid to intrude on these technical disciplines in the spirit of devastation they so freely exercise on the "merely cultural" studies. In this way I think it must be acknowledged that a supply of doctors, lawyers, dentists, engineers fairly well trained for the tasks of everyday practice has been emerging from the Canadian Universities. But as Chairmen of Boards of Governors (especially those who least believe it and

Canada with a population of about 13,000,000 has some fifty

Unsuccessful in this direction). But even when this relief has gone as far as it is likely to go, the qualifications of Faculty members are likely to remain much below the level of an earlier time. Many recent appointments have been made very cautiously for a short specified period with "no commitments on either side", because there was no available candidate whose qualifications inspired confidence. Every real friend of higher education in Canada knows that "the cultural upset of the war" is not the sole nor probably the chief cause. Scarcity of applicants except those of a type that even the present sort of Board of Governors is ashamed to appoint, results much less than is often supposed from low salaries and the effort to meet it now being so suddenly made by salary increases will probably for that reason prove disappointing. The real deterrent is the changed attitude to University education, diverting to other sorts of work the talent most needed by Colleges. Altered character of the professional office, change from the atmosphere of a place of learning to that of a general market in which learning is but one and far from the most important of the saleable commodities, the technique of the trader displacing the idealism of the scholar, could have no other result than the academic crisis we see.

Incessant pressure is applied to have the great intellectual disciplines dropped in favor of banal trivialities — about commerce, about nursing, about household management, about social readjustment or even personal adornment. While the academic teachers must make humiliating pleas in an attempt to gain new grants from the Board, it is attempted to justify the changes by saying that the needs of the time must be met with a new method. This affects the quality of the men available for University positions because the number willing so to serve like missionaries in *partibus infidelium*, is always limited.

A Royal Commission lately touring Canada to investigate neglect of "Arts and Letters", and to make recommendations for its amendment was evidence of awareness that something is wrong. But it is very doubtful whether there will be moral courage to proclaim the unpopular truth, that the type of teachers capable of promoting Arts and Letters has shrunk and must shrink still further until the practice which W. R. Inge has called "flattering the young", is checked, in the cause of higher education. Our Universities have sore need of a leadership less concerned with numbers, buildings, endowment, and less ready to sacrifice for these externals all that a University ought to mean.

would not for a moment act upon it) often say in a speech "It is the Arts Faculty that is a University's backbone.

There will, of course, continue to be a sprinkling of men so attracted by the life of learning, even though subject to new indignities, as will provide here and there on the teaching staff a genuine inspiration; men whose books or articles in the learned reviews will make the name of the College known at least as their address. Just as eagerly as ever, the undergraduate of exceptional talent responds to such stimulus. The complaint of this article is, however, that the institutional influence now so often serves to confirm and encourage a vulgar mood which in other days it served to correct and elevate. The University still gives, at least by its libraries and the still surviving disciplines of a great tradition, a glimpse to everyone (of which some at all events will never forget the thrill) of great literature, great science, great history, great philosophy. But it does seem regrettable that those most inspired by this should now so often find the routine of the institution a discouragement rather than a stimulant, and that they can advance only by being studiously exceptional.

These faults are by no means peculiar to new countries; but wherever they are, they cry aloud for amendment, and in Canada at least it is the Governors and Presidents that need a reformer's first attention. An immediate need is the restoration of control over Courses to those who appreciate what such Courses mean; that is to say, control in a vital, not just a nominal or formal sense. Formally and nominally there has indeed never been any loss of academic control; in one of the worst cases I know of its practical frustration, the University Charter still requires its maintenance, and only an Act of the Legislature could have altered this. But men whose tenure is perhaps from year to year, and who know that their promotion or even their retention on the staff depends on the caprice of an autocratic President, are likely to see the perspective of studies as he has made clear that he sees it. The vitality of Faculty meetings, which were in the past serious consultations about fulfilment of an educational purpose, but which are now extremely brief, the business being all cut and dry, must be restored. The essence of the matter lies in the escape from "Big Business" to the genuinely educational conception. When the mania of change was at a relatively early stage in Canada, warning might have been taken from two events. One was the arrest by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police of the President of a large American University on his flight across Canada with securities he had mishandled. The other was the sentence of two years imprisonment passed on the Chairman of the Board of Governors of one of the largest Canadian Universities for having stripped its Chest, steadily over many years, of its investment certificates and turned them to his own account. "Big Business" has notoriously a ragged edge!

But although the damage has cut deep, there is no ground for despair unless we drift into a conspiracy of silence. I know from countless pieces of evidence — letters, conversations, records of meetings at University centres all over Canada — that I am expressing the mind of excellent exponents of education both in the Universities and in the

Happy Shirts, 16c each  
Excellent Finish  
Superior Service  
**LAUNDERETTE**  
15 Grafton Street

The NOVA SCOTIAN  
"DANCING SATURDAY NIGHT"  
HALIFAX

**TYPING**  
STENCILS, NOTES, ETC.  
Reasonable Rates  
Students, Clubs, etc.  
Phone 4-0771

**CLASS INSIGNIA**  
BIRKS are specialists in the manufacturing of Class Insignia of all kinds and have had the privilege for years of supplying Dalhousie students.

A full display of all Dalhousie jewellery at the present time in use, is being assembled at BIRKS' Insignia Department.

Call in and see this on your first visit down town.

**Henry Birks & Sons**  
(Maritimes) Limited  
Halifax, N. S.

**Mahon's Stationery Ltd.**

Commercial and Social Stationery Supplies of all varieties.  
10% discount on all purchases made by Dalhousie societies and organizations.

90 SPRING GARDEN ROAD

COMPLETE LINES of all  
**Photographic Supplies and Equipment**  
24 Hour Developing and Printing Service  
**REID SWEET PHOTO SUPPLIES**  
9½ Prince St. - Dial 3-8539

**Capitol Music Co.**

Complete Line of Easy Terms

RADIOS, RECORDS, APPLIANCES, MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, JEWELLERY

Phone 3-6425  
21 Blowers Street

FADERS extend a special invitation to DAL STUDENTS to drop in for:  
The BEST in quality Dry Store needs...  
Unexcelled LUNCH COUNTER and FOUNTAIN Service...  
Complete MAGAZINE stand...  
A most friendly shopping atmosphere...

**FADER'S STUDLEY PHARMACY LTD.**  
REXALL DRUGS  
29 Coburg Road Halifax