

# The Varsity

Published Three Times Weekly by the Parliament of the Undergraduates of the University of Toronto.

Subscription Price, One Dollar per year in advance.

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TORONTO, MARCH 8, 1912

## THE ELECTIONS

To our new Parliament, heartiest greetings! This has been a contest of remarkable import. Never before was there such a keen interest in the elections to the Parliament, and the outcome of the referendum on the question of student control of discipline will be a guide for years to the legislators of our central organization.

Parliament stands in a position immeasurably stronger than ever before. The calibre of the men nominated, the vigour of the campaign, and the narrow margins by which the majority of the new members were elected insures a body of representatives whose handling of student affairs in the coming year will be truly effective. However, the task ahead of our legislators is no easy one. Theirs will be the problem of connecting up a latent college spirit with institutions which have been neglected. They must do more than to make two blades grow where one grew before. No blade whatever has yet shown itself in our field of finances, and yet as a revenue of considerable magnitude is essential to the progress of the Parliament, the money must be found. There are numerous defects to be made right in the agreements between the Parliament and the various activities which it controls. The question of a permanent Secretary to take over all routine duties and to extend the power and influence of undergraduate publications merits very careful consideration. Such a man is sadly needed, and yet finances will not at present allow his employment. Considerations of time quite necessitate the adoption of more expeditious methods of dealing with routine business. A system of standing committees would probably prove the most satisfactory innovation.

The referendum, it will be seen, meet with the approval of the student body. The vote, proportionally, of seven to three in favour is indicative of a growing sense of responsibility which, under the new Parliament, should grow into a wonderful University spirit. True, the fact that only 54% of the students so entitled voted is a disappointment, but the majority is so overwhelmingly in favour of student control that the Parliament will have to set about immediately to devise a final plan for the approval of the electorate.

The light vote on the referendum may be put down to several causes, greatest of which, despite the earnest efforts of the present Parliament to make itself clear, was the general indifference of hundreds of students. They did not know what the Parliament had been doing, and did not take pains to enlighten themselves. The lack of fourth year candidates caused a great falling off in the votes polled in the graduating years, and the counter attraction of a big Mining Engineers' convention drew away a hundred or more Science men.

Natural conservatism, the belief that the Parliament was not strong enough to assume the powers of discipline, and an unwillingness to vote for a change not fully understood, were the reasons for the 30% vote against student discipline. There is little opposition to the principle of student control, but the details of a plan of government which a great many did not care to undertake stood as an immovable barrier before them.

However, under the strong body which

the students have elected, possessing as it does a greater degree of respect and prestige than any previous Parliament, a broad, democratic plan of government may gradually be evolved. It may take time, but success is assured in the end if the students maintain the present degree of trust in their own powers.

Who will be the President of the newly elected body? The outgoing Parliament must exercise great care, for on their choice will depend to a very great extent the fortunes of their successors in the coming year.

A man of tact, judgment and untiring energy must be found.

The inspiration of a leader is all that the new organization needs to make this term a grand success.

The University of Toronto has entered upon a new era of attainment. The development of a mighty college spirit is dependent largely upon the activities of our new legislators. May they rise nobly to their responsibilities!

And on the very morning of the publication of the results of this, the greatest election in years, we receive a letter, published below, from a graduate of '06, inquiring about the college spirit at "Old Varsity." With what pride we can reply to our graduate that we have done in the past couple of weeks what had long been despaired of; that our central organization has practically been put on its feet, the best men in all faculties elected, and a definite answer given to the question of responsibility. We are not to stop here. In the course of the next few years there will be a wonderful expansion of college spirit. With our new Union the University will become more united and progressive, the social institutions will gain prestige, relations with the men outside the University will be strengthened, and an organization Campaign having as its object the unifying of the graduate and undergraduate bodies will be launched. We look rather far into the future, perhaps, but the temper of the present undergraduate body is sufficient basis for our hopes.

The success which this year has brought us will in turn engender success. Our University is coming into a larger sphere of activity and usefulness.

## ONLOOKER'S CORNER

Autumn is usually associated with a sad sense of farewell to something you loved,—a sense of departure into a lonely, dead period. You, yourself, think of This mood whenever you think of October. And yet, in actual fact, no such mood exists for you, a student, in the merry months of Autumn. October is characterized by a certain happy excitement; you are at the beginning of a year of brisk action. All the melancholy musings of poets on the subject seems utter rubbish, as you begin to plan your brilliant career for the coming eight months.

But now is the autumn. Now, when sap is beginning to mount, when birds begin to sing, is the period when an universal sadness comes over you all, and you feel in your hearts a sense of coming calamity and wintry chill.

They take April, May and part of June from us. They take the joy of Spring from us. It would be all right, perhaps, to take the glow of Spring away from old men—but we are Youth! It is a crime.

Yes, I speak of examinations. Of the revenge that men take on Youth, because men are growing old. In their frenzy at that thought, they try to destroy ours, because theirs is dead. For remember, a man is not a different creature, a perfect human; he is only a worn-out boy.

Let us take hold of these wayward men, and show them how to attune human action to Nature's moods. Examinations, criminal trials, and modern religious services should be held in the fall. Terms, music, dances and games should have set apart for them lovely May.

It is too late this year to revolt against the men. But see to it, before you are entirely crushed, that Man can no longer dominate the limitless kingdom of Boy.

THE ONLOOKER.

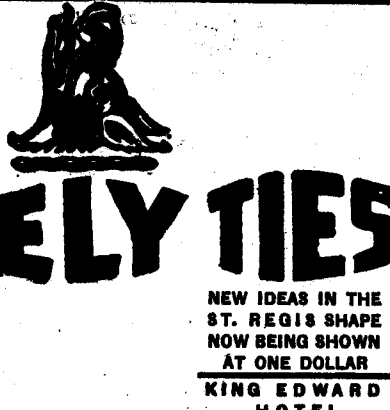
## CORRESPONDENCE

FROM A GRAD. OF '06.

To the Editor of the Varsity,

Dear Sir:—I note in the March number of "The Fra", Elbert Hubbard's monthly a quotation ascribed to President Hadley of Yale, as follows:

"The best thing the young man gets in college is the college spirit. The graduate



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I have been wondering if this spirit here spoken of is more developed and more pronounced than half a dozen years ago in our "Alma Mater." At that time there was a general awakening to the fact that the college spirit or "esprit de corps," I think it was usually named, was a vital factor but one which was distinctly lacking in our college life. The class of '07, I think did more to awaken the college to a sense of this void than any other year. But the want was still unsupplied when last I was connected with U. of T. directly.

Since then contact with students and

Continued on Page 4, Col. 2.

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