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PRESIDENT LOUDON'S VISIT TO THE WEST

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THE President's visit to the West was undertaken for the purpose of collecting information regarding the leading colleges and secondary schools in British Columbia and the Northwest Territories, and also of learning the scope and character of the various departmental examinations for teachers' certificates held by the respective Governments.

During the past few years some of these educational institutions have expressed a desire to become affiliated with the University of Toronto; others have petitioned for the holding of local matriculation examinations and even those of the first and second years, while requests are continually being received from the holders of Western departmental certificates to have their qualifications recognized by the University, and to have their certificates accepted *pro tanto* for standing in Toronto.

The Committee of the Senate empowered to deal with such requests decided before adopting any policy to have a report upon these matters based upon knowledge acquired at first hand, and in order to carry out the idea the President was commissioned to pay a visit to the West, make a study of the situation and draw up a report for the guidance of the Senate.

The President left Toronto on August 27th, and was absent for nearly five weeks. The journey was broken at Port Arthur, Winnipeg, Brandon, Regina, Calgary, Edmonton, McLeod, Nelson, Vancouver, New Westminster and Victoria. The schools and colleges in each of these cities and towns were visited, and considerable time was spent in conference at Regina and Victoria with the officials of the Departments of Education, who were exceedingly kind in furnishing the fullest information regarding their school systems and the standards of their examinations.

The occasion of the President's visit was considered most opportune for extending the organization of the Alumni Association, and with this object in view the General Secretary accompanied him. At each of the places visited considerable time was devoted to calling upon University men and women, and in most cities meetings of the graduates of all faculties were convened, at which, after speeches generally of a reminiscent character by a number of those present, a short address was delivered by the President, in which the growth of the University was traced, and its aims and the difficulties which beset it lightly touched upon. As a result of such meetings of graduates local branches of the Alumni Association were established for Victoria and Vancouver Island, Vancouver and the lower mainland of British Columbia,

the Kootenay-Boundary District of British Columbia, Edmonton and the Peace River District, Regina and the Assiniboia District, and for the Province of Manitoba.

In his addresses the President frequently referred with extreme satisfaction to the brilliant success which had attended the career of so many of the graduates in Western Canada. Everywhere the graduates were found in large numbers, and he learned with delight that in every walk of life, whether in the legislature, the judiciary, the professions or in business, they had all succeeded in a remarkable degree, and were exerting a most potent influence in establishing and moulding legislative, educational and philanthropic institutions in their rapidly developing country.

Occasion was also taken at these meetings to refer to the rapid progress of the University of Toronto, both in its undergraduate and its post-graduate work, and the President expressed his gratification at the more liberal financial support now being accorded the University by the Legislature of Ontario, as well as at the hearty manner in which the undergraduates, graduates and friends of the institution had responded to the appeal for a Convocation Hall.

To those specially interested in the question of education it was an inspiration to listen to one who had been so closely associated as the President with the various movements which have contributed so largely to the up-building of our Provincial University: the establishment of the School of Practical Science, the erection of laboratories and the introduction of laboratory methods in teaching, the fellowship system, the erection of a separate Library building and the Gymnasium, the organization of research work, and the establishment of the University Press.

The social side of the President's visit was a very pleasing feature. The thoughtfulness and kindness of the graduates and friends of the University, at all points visited, in providing for the comfort and entertainment of the President and Mrs. Loudon, who accompanied him, was unbounded. Banquets or other forms of entertainment were organized at Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton, Vancouver, New Westminster and Victoria. These gatherings were the occasion of much agreeable social intercourse among the graduates, and afforded the President, at the same time, an opportunity for renewing many old friendships. In addition to these public functions, the visitors were the recipients of much kindness and attention from graduates who at their homes vied with one