

## 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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News Editor for this Issue:—K. Burgess.

TORONTO, OCTOBER 20, 1911

### GOWNS

At the open meeting of the University College Lit., the question of the wearing of gowns at Varsity was raised by Mr. George Tate Blackstock. Some years ago, no undergraduate was allowed in a lecture room without a gown. They are still universally worn at Trinity and Wycliffe, and occasionally at Victoria, but at the other colleges never appear except on special people on special occasions. The reason for their being discarded at the School, and by the Meds., is obvious; but why, we wonder, are they so tabooed at University and Knox? Apart from its usefulness as a penwife and boot-rag, and for Household Science as a dish-rag, the gown has many points to recommend it. As a clothes-saver, it is unrivalled; as a covering for a multitude of sins, it is in a class with charity. Besides all these, by no means trivial points, the absence of the gown detracts greatly from the academic and scholarly appearance of the undergraduates. Why not resume the classic garb? We should like to hear some opinions on this question from our readers.

### THE CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES' REGIMENT

In his lecture on the "Organization of the Dominion Forces," introducing the course of military lectures, Major Phillips mentioned that these lectures were preparatory to the establishing in Toronto of a battalion of the, as yet unformed, Canadian Universities Regiment. On Tuesday last an Ottawa despatch appeared in the *Mail and Empire*, announcing that Dr. Fotheringham, of the Medical College, had urged upon the Militia Department the formation of such a battalion, and that the Minister has the matter under consideration.

We are glad to learn that this matter is being pushed forward, and wish Dr. Fotheringham every success in his endeavours. The undergraduate at present who wishes to get some military training finds himself seriously handicapped. Before he arrives for the Michaelmas term, the fall drills of the city regiments are well under way, and the recruit classes nearly over. The Thanksgiving manoeuvres either keep him away from home at that festive season, or get him a wiggling from his company officer for missing a parade. Then about Easter, when he is desperately striving to review or, in some cases, make the acquaintance of his year's work, he gets notice that "the regiment will parade."

If, in view of these circumstances, he decides to enlist in a rural regiment, he has to go to camp about the middle of June. This is a very awkward time for the man who must, as most of us must, make up at least part of his winter expenditure in the summer. The time of the camp forces him to lose three, or in some cases six week's work and wages between the exams, and his attendance at Niagara or London. For many, indeed, going to camp would mean, not only losing time from their jobs, but absolute inability to get the sort of work they want. In view of all these handicaps, we can hardly blame the Varsity man who hesitates as to whether or not to enlist in the militia. In spite of them all, however, many

undergraduates are enlisted in various corps in the city, and many more are on the rolls of the regiments drawn from their home towns. While the majority belong to the infantry battalions, there are many in the cavalry, engineers, and Army Medical Corps, and some even in the artillery. The formation of a battalion in the University, with auxiliary units and corps, would, we are sure, be attended with great success; and the companies should find no difficulty in filling their ranks. Camp, manoeuvres and parades would be arranged with an eye to the student's convenience; the University esprit de corps would be behind the new organization, in addition to a keenness for military knowledge and experience.

All success to the Toronto battalion, Canadian Universities Regiments.

Among the many evidences of good sportsmanship that McGill showed on Saturday one incident is worthy of comment. The goal umpire held up his hand to signify that Billington's drop kick had gone over the bar. Captain Johnson immediately declared that he would not count the score and this sportsmanlike statement was made before the referee had overruled the goal umpire's decision.

### CURRENT COMMENT

#### More Excitement

Before this term is completed, we shall for the second time this fall, pass through the delirious process of a general election. The December campaign, however, will not likely unsettle anybody's mental equilibrium. A little mild speculation as to whether the Liberals can possibly do any worse than they did three years ago is about the only topic worth discussing. Their failure to advocate liberalism is only surpassed by the Government's failure to be conservative. The result of the elections will be that the reactionary government will continue to be progressive. While the very brilliant but spineless leader of the Opposition will assist the Independent Labor Party to kill time.

#### Enumerated

The decennial inventory of our people and property completed, we stand aghast at the fearful mortality suggested by comparison of results with estimates. A decrease of nearly a million from what we thought we were is appalling to our ambitious pride. What the effect of reciprocity would have been on such a helpless little band as we find ourselves, we may leave the Mail to calculate. A really serious point is that, this side of Winnipeg at least, the growth is entirely confined to the cities, and mostly to those already large. Toronto gets half of the whole increase on Ontario, Montreal three-fifths of that in Quebec. The tendency seems inevitable; but in so young a country it might well be delayed a little longer.

### THE ONLOOKER'S CORNER

Victor Aubertin, in his new book "*Die Kunst Stirbt*," has brought forth a ponderous mass of evidence to show that Art is dying. Here is a little effusion from the pen of a member of our great and glorious undergraduate body that is a standing rebuke to such cynics, pessimists and "general knockers" as Aubertin and his many disciples.

He may not be of your broadcloth cut,  
Nor swagger as brilliant beau;  
He may not shelter a heart of iron,  
Nor all your learning know.

He may not hide neath his happy smile  
A hate that promises harm—  
For he's only a half-fledged Freshman  
New from the fields of the farm.

#### DENTS HOLD BANQUET

Spent an Enjoyable Evening—  
Students' Parliament  
Held Meeting

The Sophomores of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons entertained their late enemies the Freshmen to dinner at Williams' last Thursday night. Despite the persistent efforts of an elderly person with the bag pipes (Scotch) all enjoyed their meal, literally to the full. During the dinner quips of all kinds were indulged in, and the yells of the two classes. After dinner devotees of My Lady



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Nicotine were provided with material for indulging their liking and between that and the flash light powder the air was very shortly quite blue in hue. After an address by the President of the Sophomore class, Mr. Holmes, representatives from the Senior and Junior Classes were called on, and Mr. McGarion, of the Junior Class, delivered an oration worthy of a Demosthenes or an Emmett. Representatives from the Freshman class responded to their welcome and were heartily received.

After this a programme of music and stories was enjoyed till a late hour, in which all the talent of both classes was displayed, not forgetting our friends Mutt and Jeff.

After leaving the dining-room the classes marched up Yonge Street and enjoyed themselves in a manner which we will leave to the imagination of the undergraduate who, we feel sure, will do full justice to the occasion.

STUDENTS' PARLIAMENT.  
Students' Parliament of Dental College had its first meeting of the year on Monday evening. The students attended in large numbers and it was one of the most successful meetings for some time.

Mr. P. C. Atkinson, the president, occupied the chair. Many important matters were dealt with. Mr. R. D. Thornton was elected leader of the Government and Mr. J. H. Wiltse leader of opposition. The different budgets were read by the different presidents and dealt with much discussion. Next meeting of Parliament will be about the second Monday in November.

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Duties—Six months' residence upon and cultivation of the land in each of three years. A homesteader may live within nine miles of his homestead on a farm of at least 80 acres solely owned and occupied by him or by his father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister.

In certain districts a homesteader in good standing may pre-empt a quarter-section alongside his homestead. Price \$3.00 per acre.  
Duties.—Must reside upon the homestead or pre-emption six months in each of six years from date of homestead entry (including the time required to earn homestead patent) and cultivate fifty acres extra.

A homesteader who has exhausted his homestead right and cannot obtain a pre-emption may enter for a purchased homestead in certain districts. Price \$3.00 per acre. Duties.—Must reside six months in each of three years, cultivate fifty acres and erect a house worth \$300.00.

W. W. CORY,

Deputy of the Minister of the Interior.

N.B.—Unauthorized publication of this advertisement will not be paid for.

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