

From S. J. McLEAN, Blake Scholarship Man in the Class of '94 :

During the past year of my course in Political Science, it has been my good fortune to have attended lectures by Mr. McEvoy, on Canadian Constitutional History, English Constitutional History and Economics.

They The lectures in Canadian Constitutional History I found most profitable indeed. I dealt with the varied incidents of constitutional importance in Canada, from the sixteenth century to the present. The lectures on the period of the French Régime were very interesting and valuable, in that they threw much light on after developments in Canadian Constitutional History. Then the lectures pertaining to matters of more recent date :—The Quebec Act, Constitutional Act, Union Act, the Constitutional Growth of Upper Canada, the Clergy Reserves, the British North America Act, were, among other things, dealt with in a manner which was instructive and stimulating to all. I found the lectures on the British North America Act most valuable since by their help I was enabled to obtain a readier grasp of the principles contained in that document. The work done in lectures was supplemented by individual research on the part of the students : this was done under the control of Mr. McEvoy. The results of this work are subscribed in the *Referendum* note book. By this means many somewhat obscure periods of Canadian Constitutional History were investigated independently, and old documents and records were searched. Especially was this course of work of importance in the study of the financial basis of confederation—a subject on which the ideas of most of us, and of myself in particular, had been extremely vague. Attention was also directed to the comparison of the Canadian Constitution with that of the United States, the influence of the latter on the former, and the salient features of both were dealt with. I found this part of the work very helpful, in that it enabled me to more closely define some of the erroneous, popular views, which I had accepted, on the question of the executive.

On English Constitutional History lectures were delivered during the Easter term, covering a period extending from Saxon times to the present. I found the tracing of the development of the English Parliamentary system especially beneficial. The explanation of the forces which consolidated and unified the constituencies, goes far to account for the failure to secure true representation by arbitrarily established electoral boundaries. The relation of the Privy Council to Parliament, the influences which led to the waning of its power, the differentiation of its functions, and the influences which led to the establishment of the cabinet system, were all dealt with in sufficient detail to render each step readily seen and understood by every student. I found the whole series of lectures extremely beneficial ; by their aid I was enabled to better understand the complexity of the forces from which have evolved the British constitution. Lines of independent reading were also recommended ; I found the references on special topics to various parts of Stubb's, May, and other works, of much service to me in obtaining an adequate conception of the subject.

Mr. McEvoy, in his lectures on economics, which had to do with the questions of distribution and rent, showed on his part independent thought ; the method pursued led to much thought among the students on these important subjects. I found the discussion of the Ricardian hypothesis of rent most instructive and thought-stimulating.

Occasionally during the discussion of constitutional question it was necessary to touch on matters which were possibly of partizan interpretation ; but Mr. McEvoy was invariably fair, each question was considered calmly and on its merits. We were told that partizanship had nothing to do with the matter we were considering, that it was for us simply to consider it in its bearing on the constitutional development of the country.

I have found my knowledge broadened by Mr. McEvoy's lectures ; I have found my judgment more matured and rendered capable of understanding some