

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, OCTOBER 11, 1911

MILITARY EDUCATION

Toronto is fortunate in having made arrangements for a course of lectures on military matters, this year. A great need for such a course has long been felt. University men, not only here, but throughout Canada, have failed to do their full share in supporting the national militia, and we hope that the holding of this course will mark the beginning of a great improvement in this University at least.

Now that Canada has declared for nationhood within the Empire, she must face her responsibilities and among the first of these is self-defense. Naval defence we leave out of consideration, as at present there is no working scheme for a Volunteer Naval Reserve. Land defence is a different matter. There is a working scheme, well organized, fairly equipped, and lacking in one thing—men. The need for officers, especially in the line battalions, is particularly great, and that for officers trained not only in company work, which is, on the whole, very satisfactory, but in the larger conception of military science. Manoeuvres have shown, time and again, that the various branches of the service do not work together as they should; that they do not dovetail into each other, in the way calculated to bring the best results. It is this part of the science of war in which men trained in the Universities should excel—men used to seizing on the broad significance of things, to arranging details to fit in with more general ideas.

An opportunity of getting this larger outlook is now afforded the undergraduates of Toronto, by this course of lectures on Military Education. The first takes place this afternoon at 5 p.m. in the chemical Building, and we urge all men interested in matters military to make a point of attending.

FINE WORK, MCGILL!

We are delighted to acknowledge the receipt of two issues of the new "McGill Daily." The venture is one fraught with great difficulty, even danger, and yet our brethren of Mount Royal have thrown themselves into the enterprise with a zeal that betokens great success. The paper itself has all the earmarks of the regular newspaper, being printed on news stock, with large title, big headings, and six inch double column ads.

The undertaking is one which will require unceasing faith and labor on the part of the editorial and business boards, but as the McGill undergraduate body comes into full realization of the merits of a daily, and of its own journal in particular, the strain will gradually ease off.

The time is hardly ripe for a daily in Toronto University, but we trust that next year will find in our midst a sheet which will give the news of the University in full. We rather expect that we shall not publish as large a paper as does Old McGill, but we trust that our courage and initiative will be commensurate to that of the strong hearts who are doing so much in the interests of our sister University.

CURRENT COMMENT

CHANGING POLITICIANS

We are now indulging, after the alteration, in an alteration of the personnel of the Government. The truly patriotic, stable, and progressive Liberal-Conservatives, take the place of the truly patriotic, stable, and progressive conservative Liberals. The great changes, which the new government won't introduce, will undoubtedly increase our prosperity, until the next depression at least. Our new servants and wasters in the cabinet, devoted to the manufacturers and the empire, ought to give honest administration for several months, anyway. A new broom sweeps clean, but then it soon ceases to be new. The Liberals, entertaining the same lofty ideals as their opponents, will now occupy themselves with pious criticism. As for policy there is little to choose between party leaders, in spite of what contending enthusiasts may say; but for the sake of public honesty, it is to be regretted that we do not change politicians more often.

THE MOSLEMS

We are subjects of the greatest Moslem power in the world. And we aren't. It is true that there are more Moslems by many millions, than Christians in the British Empire; but then the British Empire is a very complicated structure,—in fact, it would be a bold man, or a fool, who would say just what the British Empire really is. The problem of the ultimate destiny of the non-European races in the British Empire is very obscure. One point, however, seems to stand out; that we, in Canada, do not have much to do with it. Our problem is whether to follow the dictates of ultimate justice or present expediency with regard to the Asiatic on the Pacific coast. It does not seem to make much difference whether he is a British subject, or not. For the Motherland, however, the stirrings of nationalism and unity in the Moslem world which may be accelerated by the troubles of Turkey, present difficulties which are not trivial.

A LITTLE DREAM

(Contributed.)

My dream—ha, ha! amazing!

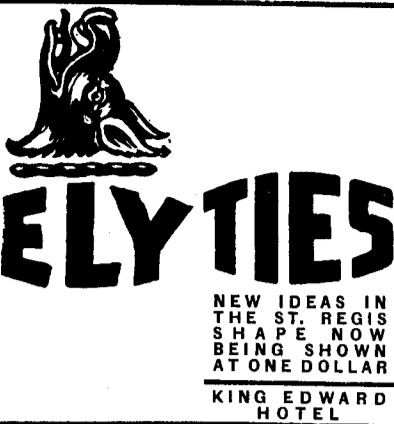
I sat in my study, my feet well propped against the table, my mind well propped against some lines of Homer. Behind me I heard the study door quickly open and close. I turned around in my chair and looked at the visitor, and immediately swung my legs off the table and faced him with all the deference one can when one's mouth is wide open and cannot be shut. He was a very strange figure in the half-light that my green lamp throws into the corners of the room. He was shrunken like one of the leaves that dance around us to-day, he was not more than four feet tall, and his face wore an expression of abject misery.

"Who are you," I demanded, when I had persuaded my mouth to cease misbehaving.

"Oh, I am Mr. University Spirit, of Toronto," he replied. "I thought you wouldn't recognize me. I don't show myself much around here; I am not well liked; I am too sensitive of insult to hang about where I am not desired."

Now, when I heard this person speak his name, I measured the distance between us; and as he finished speaking, I made a jump for him, (he was somewhat smaller than I) but he eluded me by leaping about in the most lively manner; and after a few seconds' scramble, I sat down in my chair and somewhat breathlessly asked him to sit down in my other chair.

"Ah," he remarked, as he experimented with different positions in my other chair to find a comfortable one, "they often try to seize me roughly like that. But it isn't the proper way, my boy. I must be coaxed; I must be wooed! Protestations must be made by all who would have me amongst them, that they are unfit for my presence. This may sound conceited and vain; but I am not vain when I realize that my presence in your midst is entirely to your credit. I have been sinking deeper and deeper into the slough of despond, as I hear you remarking: 'We have no University Spirit,' or even 'We want no University Spirit, what is it?' And I am not so sure you realize what I am. Do you grasp the full significance of the power I



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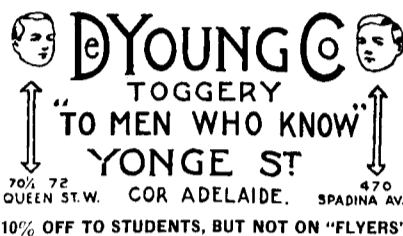
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carry in my vest pocket? Do you know that were I rambling about your antique towers, very man would be out on Stag Night; every ticket would be sold for the rugby game to be held at the other side of the map; every white-sweater would be at your disposal, with which to write things on the bleachers; every little enterprise, all big enterprises, from taking a subscription for a janitor to financing a newspaper, would be a howling, roaring success? Here little Mr. U. Spirit gave up his attempts to find a comfortable position in my other chair, and sat forward. "I shall tell you how to get me with you," he continued, "By the pen! Make it a pleasure for every freshman, senior and child, among you, to express himself. And he will do it on paper quicker than he will on a platform or in a circle of friends. You will have to search for the sharp tongue, the shrewd eye, and the ready wit, and enlist them, in my cause. And by gentle pats, occasional punches, and once-in-a-while whalings, knock it into the head of the hoi polloi that I am essential, paramount."

I had been sitting through this speech with my head back, gazing thoughtfully at the ceiling. So when the door slammed and I suddenly sat up, I do not know whether my visitor had really been here and departed, or if the wind had swung the door and waked me. For I was sitting in a polite attitude of listening, my Homer was on my table, and the green lamp was glimmering. This doubt, and the judgment on the spirit's remarks, I leave to you.

CORRESPONDENTS' NOTICE!

Correspondents of The Varsity are advised that copy for College News and for the Editorial page should be handed into The Varsity Office not later than 4 o'clock two days before issue. All other copy (for the front and back pages) should be in at noon on the day before issue; or, in the case of copy arising from events happening later in the day, the Editors should be informed of what may be expected.

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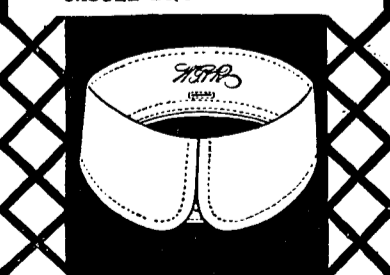
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