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Western University Is Host To Canadian U. Press Annual Parley

STAFF MEMBERS of the University of Western Ontario Gazette were official hosts for the annual National Canadian University Press Conference, held at London, Ontario, December 21, 22 and 23. For the first time all the member papers of the CUP were represented. Alex Farquhar, Sports Editor of the Dalhousie Gazette, was the delegate from Dalhousie.

Highlight was the presentation of the Bracken Award to the McGill Daily.

National Wire Service

Plans were devised for a nationwide wire service through which university news may be transmitted speedily and efficiently from one university to another. Headquarters were set up in Winnipeg, Toronto and Montreal to service western, central and eastern regions respectively. News from each university is to be telegraphed to regional headquarters where it will be edited and distributed to the university papers across Canada. This system will benefit the larger papers who publish daily and can run more CUP material. However, on matters of intense interest all member papers have the advantage of getting the news first hand from sister universities.

Elections were held for the Offices of National Presidency and Vice-Presidency of CUP and, as a result, The UBYSSEY takes over the Presidency and McGill Daily the Vice-Presidency, for the years 1946-47.

A CUP Institute of Public Opinion was devised authorizing the QUEEN'S JOURNAL to conduct nation-wide polls on matters of student interest.

Glee Club Program Includes Concert, 1-act Plays, 3-act Comedy

PLANS FOR the second term were finalized at a very successful and enjoyable luncheon meeting of the Dal Glee and Dramatic Society last Tuesday. The following items of business were discussed:

1. Entries have been received for the Connolly Shield One-Act Play contest. The plays will be staged on two evenings: Thursday and Friday, January 24, 25. Don Warner and the Dalhousians will be in attendance.

2. A very choice program, which includes Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2, has been selected for the concert Monday, January 28 at 8.30 p.m.

3. "You Can't Take It With You" has been chosen to be the modern 3-Act Play to be staged on February 22, 23. The play will again be under the direction of Mr. Leslie Pigot.

4. Deadline for Munro Day Show Scripts has been set for Thursday, January 17 at 9 p.m.

5. More tenors, bases, and altos, are urgently needed in the chorus. Rehearsals will be held regularly twice a week, Thursday, 8.30 p.m., Upper Gym, and Sunday 3 p.m., Lower Gym.

6. The executive wants 5 volunteers to supplement the staff. The work to be done is chiefly secretarial and administrative and does not consume very much time.

N. F. C. U. S. Meeting—

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transportation rates, and student government.

Seventeen universities across Canada are at present members of the N.F.C.U.S. To carry on the activities of the Federation, a permanent secretary-treasurer was appointed, and a president and four regional vice-presidents were elected. The latter officers are expected to conduct regional conferences next fall to discuss problems peculiar to each region. Bill Mingo of Dalhousie was elected Vice-President for the Maritimes.

The University has requested that students observe strictly the NO SMOKING RULE in the Arts Building.



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The Liberal Education

Even if the principal task of the university is to supply the culture which makes existence more worthwhile, as is contended, a little more attention to practicalities also is useful.

—Halifax Herald, Dec. 20, 1945.

THE remark above typifies the attitude of an ever increasing majority of the community towards what is generally described as a liberal education. The insertion of the phrase "as is contended" suggests that the author had little real conception of the term 'culture' and even less of the function attributed to it—"the making more worthwhile of our existence". Nor is this attitude reflected only in the press. It achieves glaring expression in our high schools, where the standard in most academic subjects is of a caliber so poor as to border on the pathetic, and in our colleges, where from year to year is growing strikingly smaller the number of graduates who can boast of any genuine acquaintance with a course of study not specifically designed to transform them from potential human beings into some common 'practical' cogs for the vast machines of modern society.

We take pride in tracing the expansion of our educational system during the past centuries, complacent of the progress we can show, when all the while it is not so much our educational system as our process for manufacturing skilled technicians that we have been developing. We pay lip service to culture, pretending to appreciate its worth, whereas very few of us understand its nature. And why should we—who have neither time, money nor incentive to cast away on study that does not guarantee immediate, tangible utility to the community, and, consequently, a lucrative return to the student?

How wretched are our attempts at self-expression, and how seldom have we an idea that merits the effort! Even the information that our advanced specialists have devised an ingenious instrument able to destroy in a moment the civilized structure which has taken centuries to build fails to promote amongst ourselves universal movement to comprehend the forces revolving within this structure with a view of avoiding the fatal explosion.

Though a knowledge of the causes of depressions and wars does not by any means place these phenomena under our control, it is only after we have learned something of the rules, the risks, and the mistakes of our forerunners that we even get into the game, let alone possess a chance of winning. As the product of current education we would think the world perfect if once we had financial and social security; and hence we blindly scratch about, collectively and individually, for some nice, comfortable niche, appealing to our special tastes, in the grand mechanism, apparently oblivious of the record of its performance during the last twenty years, and too stunned by habit and up-bringing to realize that there yet exist no good reasons why it will not happen again—and on a scale that will blast the torch of culture and human achievement far from our eager cluch, eventually, perhaps, dropping it among the more primitive tribes of darkest Africa for further tendance. Well off, indeed, will be then the trained accountant or learned justice now scrambling so assiduously for ascendancy, each in his particular field.

But the merits of such an education are not confined to limits so narrow and truly practical. The very word 'liberal' implies that the knowledge acquired during the experience is a pleasure to the intellect, thus constituting an end in itself; and there lies the distinction between it and 'more useful' types of instruction: the latter have no value of their own, and regardless of how attractive they may seem, are actually nothing more than a means to an end. For the individual personally, the perusal of the story of his predecessors, what they thought and did, how well they fared, and so forth, tends to round out his own character and personality, in that it broadens his general view towards life, develops his special talent and abilities, expands and raises his standards of taste, and, most important of all, constructs for him a standard of values to indicate the solid ground along his way. He has then some equipment for making the most of his life, and, able to see the forest for the trees, retains some human qualities in the struggle that now endeavours to transform him into a mere mechanical part.

Student Veterans—

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to being successful as to be tantalizing."

Housing Panel

The Housing panel found that housing was a very serious national problem with local variations, and that the necessity of having to search for accommodations, to pay high rentals, or to be separated from a wife and family, was having a detrimental effect upon the studies of student veterans. To alleviate the present conditions and, with an eye to the future, it was recommended that the government initiate both immediate emergency measures and a long term policy. As immediate emergency measures, it recommended that all possible government-owned buildings such as service barracks, hostels, etc., be renovated and used as living accommodations for both married and unmarried student veterans, and that the wartime housing program be continued and expanded by the allocation of more materials and labor. Under the long term policy, it was recommended that a low cost, low rental house building program be initiated immediately.

The chief recommendation of the Educational panel was to the effect that the D.V.A. accept the recommendation of the university as to whether or not a student veteran be allowed to continue his studies. This was to ensure that student veterans receive the same consideration as non-veteran students.

National Organization

Following the adoption of the various panel briefs, a discussion on the question of the formation of a national organization of stu-

dent veterans was held and it was decided that there was a need for such an organization, and that one should be formed. As a first step towards its formation, a National Council of seven members was elected to meet early in 1946 and present the findings of the first National Conference of Student Veterans to the House of Commons, and then to lay the groundwork for a "National Conference of Student Veterans." Alec Hart, President of Dal Ex-service Club is the Maritime Representative on the Council.

Observers Present

Present at the Conference as observers, but lending their assistance and advice whenever needed were: Major-General Burns, Director-General of Rehabilitation, D.V.A., Brig. Milton Gregg, V.C., President of U.N.B., who represented the President of the Canadian Legion and Mr. Hertzog, Secretary of Canadian Legion. Major General Burns, speaking on behalf of the D.V.A., expressed the desire of his department to hear the views and proposals of the student veterans, and promised that any proposals or recommendations, made by them, would be given the fullest consideration by the Department of Veteran's Affairs.

Mr. Hertzog, from his experience as Secretary of the Canadian Legion, was able to give valuable assistance to the Conference in the formation and presentation of its resolutions. He expressed to the Student Veterans of Canada the desire of the Canadian Legion to co-operate with, and lend assistance to, any National body of Student Veterans. The spirit and promise of the student veterans he declared to be high and worthy of

all the help and assistance that the Canadian Legion could give them.

Present at the Conference as delegates from Dalhousie Student Veterans Association were Mr. Alex Hart, Mr. Doug. Voiles and Mr. T. A. Giles.

Publisher Praises—

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high-school properly equipped for the demands of higher education."

Philosophy of Education

He argued that the modern philosophy of education had reached a ridiculous extreme with the idea "that a subject must be presented so as to produce the minimum of effort and pain for the student. As a result, he said, "the fundamental need for logical thought processes and intellectual reasoning" is being hopelessly neglected through every stage of education—from primary school to university.

Mr. Henderson feels, however, that Canadians in general are becoming conscious that our approach to world problems is in need of drastic revision and that we are rediscovering the need for a common understanding of common problems, based on logic and intelligence. "We are coming to realize our debt to the historic processes which are only preserved and developed in the Liberal Arts. A renaissance in liberal education will come with the realization that there alone stands the salvation of our age and generation."

NOTICE

Mr. Appleby of the CBC will speak at a special meeting of the Dramatic Society, tomorrow, Saturday, Jan. 12, 2.30 p.m. in the Engineer's Common Room.

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