

# Dalhousie Dean Dismisses Criticism of Law Schools

*Prof. Sydney Smith, Now Lecturing At McGill, States Practice Necessary To Make Successful Lawyers*

"I HAVE NO APOLOGY whatever to make for the law schools on the score that they are not turning out practical lawyers," Prof. Sidney Smith, dean of the Dalhousie Law School, said in an interview today. Professor Smith is delivering a series of lectures at McGill Law School, under an exchange plan. "We cannot give the law students their technique; only the offices can do that," he added.

Until about six years ago, Professor Smith greatly admired the "case system" used at Harvard Law School in the attempt to give the student technique. Since that time, he admits, he has come to be critical of the Harvard method.

The charge that the Canadian law schools do not turn out practical lawyers does not worry Dean Smith, since he feels that law school training is invaluable in the long run for the practical lawyer. "Give a man a liberal education," he said, "train him in international and constitutional law, and, though it may not tell at once, it will begin to tell inside five years. By that time he will have achieved a certain technique.

## PARALLEL CASE

"Take the parallel case of the trade schools. We may teach a man how to light a blow-torch and how to apply a blow-torch to a pipe, but we ought to do more than that. We should teach him the principles, the why and wherefore, the reason it works. It is somewhat the same with regard to law."

Professor Smith says that the same sort of idle criticism of the law schools may be heard all across Canada. "I met more of it at Osgoode Hall than in the Maritimes," he declared.

Dr. Smith is a Maritimer by birth and a "Bluenose" at that, having been born at Inverness, Cape Breton.