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DR. WILSON'S PESSIMISM

Dr. Wilson's address last Wednesday night was a pleasant and profitable departure from Round Table routine. At previous meetings this year discussion had been mainly concerned with the whys and wherefores of Canadian politics and the merits and demerits of personalities in the political set-up. Representatives of the various parties took to the hustings on different occasions to spread their gospels of hope. Each speaker, of course, evangelized on his party's altruism and its determination to pave the way for a social and economic utopia. Quite naturally, these meetings were cloaked in an atmosphere of consoling (if not justified) optimism.

Pessimism was the key-note of Wednesday's get-together. However, Dr. Wilson provided Round Table members with considerable food for thought. For while he is a pessimist, Dr. Wilson is primarily a realist, having formed his views by a realistic application of present-day problems to the issues which have marked the long evolution of human society. Yes, Professor Wilson is pessimistic, but far from stoical in his philosophy.

We must start by accepting harsh reality with the realization that our society, as it now stands, augurs anything but optimism for the future; that wars have always been waged selfishly and objectively; that peace treaties have always been drafted for the greatest material advantage of the strongest powers, and, too, that "peace in our time" is not assured by the broad generalities of an Atlantic Charter. It is ridiculous to assume that this cycle of social behaviour can be changed for the good without a miraculous regeneration of human nature and morality.

However, Dr. Wilson believes we should always be outwardly striving for "the better life", even though its fulfillment may appear the vaguest of illusions. He urges us to unhitch our wagons from the "spiritual bankruptcy" of materialism, and to follow the basic principles of morality—without which the foundations of society are doomed to destruction.

No, we should not be disillusioned by wild optimism nor should we be carried away by a false sense of security. Through our small spheres of activity at university, can we not attempt to develop sound values of right and wrong and to consider their relationship to the general scheme of things? By fostering Round Table discussions and debates and by interesting ourselves in the great, unsolved problems of history, we Dalhousians will acquire a clearer understanding of the difficulties besetting present-day society; we will at least be able to meet them half way in the world of tomorrow.

Ignorance and apathy are satellites of materialism. Intelligence, far-sightedness and sound common sense have been pushed aside by the brute force of material self-interest.

Here again lies another challenge for the universities and for higher education.

VOX DISCIPULI—

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think that any law subject is unnecessary. All branches of law are interrelated in their scope and prac-

tice and consequently the absence of any subject taught in the Dalhousie Law School, whether it contracts, tarts, or conflicts, would necessitate an incompleteness in the equipment of the would-be lawyer.

Junior Prom

DALHOUSIE GYMNASIUM
FRIDAY — FEBRUARY 16th

Girls Formal	Boys Informal
Jerry Naugler and His Twelve-Piece Orchestra	
Refreshments	No Corsages



Tickets on Sale from Junior Students

Ottawa Calling

("Inside" News from the Political Front)
A CANADIAN UNIVERSITY PRESS FEATURE
By NEIL MacDONALD

PRE-ELECTION GLIMPSSES

OTTAWA.—There is general regret around the capital about the turn of events have taken in the last hours before the Grey North by-election. It is not good for Canada's name that so many charges have had to be flung across the Grey North hustings, especially when these charges involve Canada's army and the extent of her participation in the war.

The person who would dare to predict the outcome of the by-election would be brave indeed. So much dust has been raised, that it is almost impossible to make out the principal figures in the picture.

The usual prophets of Ottawa are saying that anything may happen on Monday—and this writer is not fool enough to risk any kind of prediction whatever.

(Drewplessis Machine)

Premier Maurice Duplessis of Quebec has served notice on Prime Minister King that he is not prepared to accept the system of Family Allowances as planned by the Dominion Government. Probably for different reasons, he feels with Premier Drew of Ontario that the measure as it stands is an infringement of provincial rights in the matter of social services.

The opposition which the Department of Health and Welfare is meeting from certain provincial governments is nothing, however, compared to the problems it is discovering in setting up its "typical" provincial headquarters in Charlottetown. Here, officials have already discovered, many children's births have never been registered, and there is the fuss and confusion of trying to prove the children's eligibility for the money at this late date. Since the Allowances go on a sliding scale, according to age, the date of birth is important, and is difficult to prove.

Which all goes to indicate that the Department of National Health and Welfare is not going to be able to have the cheques ready for distribution by July 1, 1945, as planned in the act.

Staff Sketches

No. 5



DR. H. L. STEWART, Dal's widely-known Professor of Philosophy, was born at Cairncastle, county Antrim, Ireland. He was educated at the Belfast Royal Academy, Denson College, Oxford, and the Royal University of Ireland.

After reaping high honours at university he lectured at the University of Belfast for four years; then came to Canada early in 1914. He immediately joined the Dalhousie University staff and has been here ever since. He has been the President of many local organizations here in Halifax, and he is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

Dr. Stewart has published many books, articles and reviews. He is one of the foremost radio commentators in the Dominion, having started 13 or 14 years ago over CHNS and later with the Canadian Radio Commission. At present he is editor of the Dalhousie Review. His pastimes? Golf and chess.

The Art of Studying

Do not let anyone tell you that the fine art of studying is acquired with ease as soon as you first come to college. It isn't. The primary aim in the acquirement of this technique is, of course, to make it as painless as possible. In this end your studying must be brief. If you live in residence this matter is quickly and completely settled for you. Your friends "drop in" to see what you are doing, and, lo-and-behold, midnight arrives and finds you still in deep conversation. Then, naturally, it is too late to study, so you can go to bed with a clear conscience. Nobody wants a foggy head for that nine o'clock class anyway. Now if you live out of residence the matter is a little more complicated. But do not despair. A radio is a wonderful help to "studying." You will probably be told by someone in your family that you simply cannot study and listen to the radio at the same time, with the result that you listen to the radio. Don't mind these remarks. Quote some famous authority to support you. Here is where English Two will help you. Wasn't it Rabelais who always worked best if there were flowers to see and music to hear in his room? Of course you aren't a Rabelais, we hope, but the idea is still good. Going downstairs for that sandwich and cup of coffee at 10:30 is another good idea. Or maybe you spend your evenings (only one or two, of course) in the Library. As soon as you arrive home, set sail at once for the kitchen and satisfy that "inner man" with these few suggestions. We leave you pleasant "studying"! J. B. H.

DR. WILSON—

(Continued from page one)

given many of us such a purpose, but that, of course, can not last." Not since the thirteenth century have the people of the western world all enjoyed one common explanation of their existence. Today we can see no further than material goals; "and," he added, "a civilization based on a material worship can not last."

U. S. Imperialism

In speaking of the United States, Dr. Wilson said that it will be faced with the problem after the war of providing for its people a secure standard of living. In short, it will have to give them all jobs. How

will this be done? Perhaps, he said, they will enter into economic competition with the other nations for the principle world markets. The only way the modern industrial state can maintain and promote domestic prosperity is by establishing a large and profitable foreign trade, that is, by securing preferences in the limited markets of the world. These markets may be obtained through direct political control, imperialism, but they can only be obtained by excluding other countries from them. And such a policy, on the part of any leading nation, would cause another war. There is no reason to believe that it will be the policy of all nations after this war.



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4.5

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