

## The U of A; A History

by Leonard Atwood

The University of Alberta became an entity in 1906 when the first legislature of the province at its first session passed an act authorizing the establishment of a university.

The decision to locate in Edmonton was challenged by Calgary and a special commission was formed to examine the situation and advise the government. It confirmed the original choice and its recommendation was accepted by the government.

Dr. Henry Marshall Tory, a lecturer in physics and mathematics at McGill University, was the first president and he held the position from 1908 to 1928.

His staff consisted of a professor of classics, a professor of English, an assistant professor of mathematics and lecturer in civil engineering, and a professor of modern languages.

At the first meeting of the Senate, March 30, 1908, plans were drawn for the establishment of the first faculty, that of Arts and Sciences.

The first classes were held in what is now Queen Alexandra School, with a student enrolment of 45. The following year they attended classes in Strathcona High School.

Dr. H.M. Tory is well known as the man who started the Khaki University during the years 1917-18. Under this project 1200 men took their first year of college overseas and 350 took their third or fourth year in British universities.

Tory retired from the U of A but kept on with his research.

He was instrumental in forming the National Research Council and later became president of Carleton College. As well he is remembered as the 'great initiator' of McGill's graduate school, the University of British Columbia and the Royal Society of Canada.

The Students' Union was organized in 1908 and the first issue of The Gateway appeared in 1911.

Convocation exercises were held for a few students in 1911 but it was in 1912 that the first formal convocation ceremony occurred.

Mr. Justice C.A. Stuart of Calgary was the university's initial chancellor and he presided over convocation until his death in 1926.

Originally from Scotland, his unique mixture of legal wit and political 'savvy' lent the formal and advisory position of chancellor a rare quality of humanity. Not being a firm believer in ceremony he once apologised to the Prince of Wales for forgetting his speech and instead gave a brief extemporae introduction which charmed both the Prince and the audience.

The University started with a base of liberal studies which expanded into the Faculty of Law in 1912 and the Faculty of Applied Science (re-named engineering in 1948) in 1913. That year a preliminary three-year course in medicine was initiated.

In 1912 a direct relationship between the university and the public resulted from the formation of a department of extension. It provided Alberta farmers with the results of agricultural research and promoted public interest and goodwill generally.

The Arts Building opened in 1915 and the Faculty of Agriculture was established. That year also saw the emergence of Committee of Graduate Studies, a committee of the General Faculty Council. In 1938 it became the School of Graduate Studies and in 1957 it was raised to the status of a faculty.

The university's operating budget, circa 1910-11, was about \$34,000; three years later it stood at \$149,000.

The School of Commerce was established in 1916 and was followed by classes in dentistry in 1917. Pharmacy, which had its first classes in 1914, was organized as a school in 1917. The Department of Household Economics opened in 1918.

By 1924, the Department of Dentistry was offering a full five-year course leading to the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery. The department was a branch of the Faculty of Medicine as was the School of Nursing which opened in

1924.

Mr. Justice N.D.D. Beck was the second Chancellor. He took the office after the death of Mr. Stuart and filled out the term until 1927 when Dr. A.C. Rutherford (Cameron Rutherford) took up the office. He is perhaps better remembered as the First Premier of Alberta, the man who established the U of A in the legislature and the man who brought Mr. Tory in as first president.

In 1927, a Roman Catholic college, St. Joseph's College, became affiliated with the university and conducted its own undergraduate courses in history and philosophy which were accepted by the Faculty of Arts and Science for the Bachelor of Arts degree.

St. Stephen's College, also located on campus, had already been operating for several years. Its students took the Bachelor of Arts degree under the Faculty of Arts and Science. Both colleges added to the university's residential facilities.

Dr. Wallace became the second President of the University in 1928. He is remembered as the man who brought the University through the trying years of the depression. Born in the Orkney Islands in 1881, he spent a large portion of his time in Manitoba working at various government positions which were connected with mineralogy and geology, his specialty. More than anyone else, it is said that he opened up the Flin-Flon area.

The Department of Accountancy became the School of Commerce in 1928. A School of Education was also organized that year. Pharmacy, commerce, household economics and education were under the general administration of the Faculty of Arts and Science.

A hospital board assumed the administration of the University Hospital in 1929 and it was directly responsible to the provincial government. The university previously controlled the hospital and its interest was continued when the president and the dean of the Faculty of Medicine were made ex officio members of the board.

Fraternalities, or the import from

"across the line", became a part of university life in 1930.

In 1936, Dr. W.A.R. Kerr became president of the University. He is the 'humane scholar' in the Universities history. Born in Toronto in 1875, he worked his way up through the academic ranks, first as a professor of languages, then as Dean of Arts and Sciences. Well learned and travelled he specialized in 16th Century French Literature.

The present summer school system was established in 1937, the same year that it was decided that all students proceeding to degree must present grade 12 standing. Until 1937 students could enter the university with either grade 11 or grade 12 standing.

In 1939-40, the full-time teaching staff totalled 109 and student enrolment was 2,327. The university's operating budget for the term was approximately \$1,127,000.

Dr. R. Newton is the man termed the 'Wise Administrator' Bringing the field of agriculture to the office of President of the University was no easy task. During his term he steered the University through a course of great expansion. As well as being an administrator and agriculturalist he was decorated with the military cross for action with the Canadian Field Artillery at Vimy Ridge.

A new University Act went into effect in 1942. It extended the powers of the General Faculty Council by giving it full jurisdiction over the awarding of degree, excepting the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, and all academic matters. Previously the Senate was responsible for this operation. The council consisted of staff members with the rank of full professor and representatives of professional associations became co-opted members.

However, the act placed final authority in the hands of the Board of Governors.

The act also reconstituted the Senate. It lowered the membership from 54 to 25; of the 25, 16 were statutory members representing the Board of Governors, associated institutions, the teaching staff,

and the students. The Senate elected the remaining nine who held office for six years.

Under the act, the Senate had no legislative function. It served and continues to serve as a bridge between the university administration and the public. Its chairman is the university chancellor who is also an ex officio member of the board, an arrangement which allows the Senate to exert considerable influence.

Mr. Justice Frank Ford continued the legalistic tradition of Chancellor from 1941-46. He was Kings Council in three provinces, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Further development included the faculty status awarded the School of Dentistry in 1944 and the creation of the department of fine arts (music, painting, drama) under the jurisdiction of the Faculty of Arts and Science and the department of chemical engineering which joined the Faculty of Engineering.

During World War Two instruction was made available to army electricians, air force radio mechanics and navy electrical and radio craftsmen, and scientific research was conducted.

In 1945-46, the Faculty of Education undertook the training of all teacher, primary as well as secondary. The normal schools were closed and their staff transferred to the university. Since it was not feasible to require teachers to complete the four-year course before beginning to teach, a certificate was awarded at the end of the second year and the remaining two years completed in summer sessions.

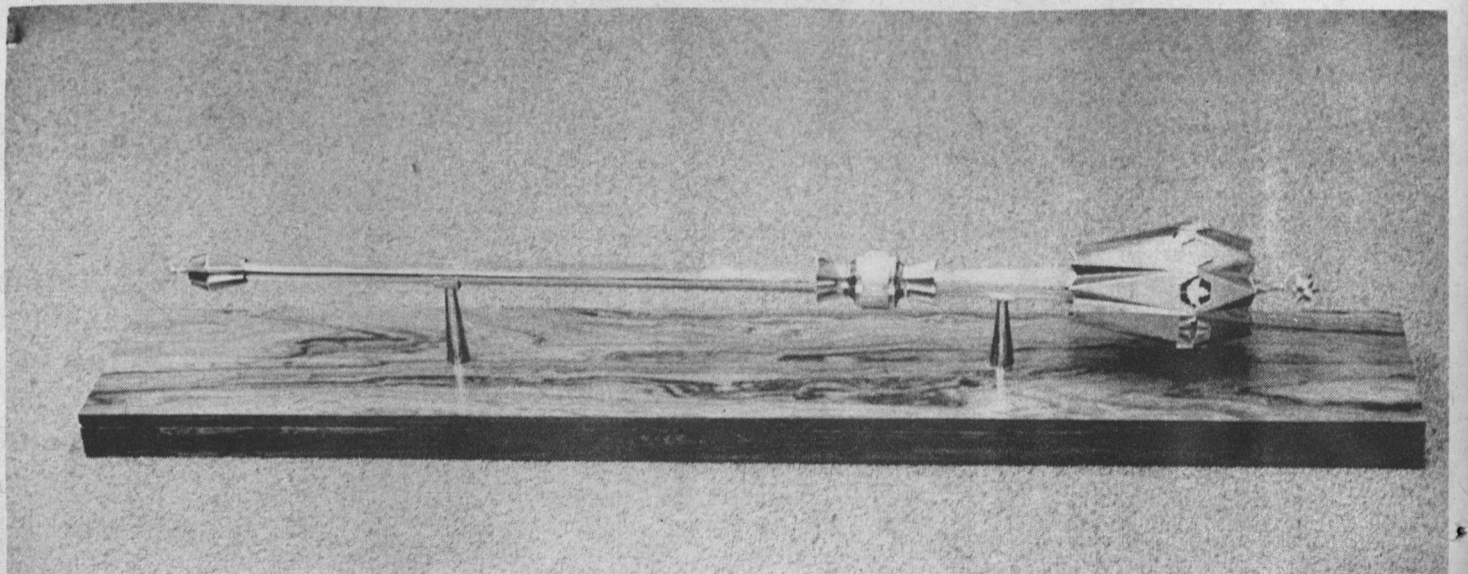
The primary motive behind the innovation was the desire to raise the prestige of the teaching profession.

Dr. G.F. McNally became Chancellor in 1946 and is remembered as the first U of A graduate to do so. He graduated at the first convocation in 1911.

In 1951, Dr. Andrew Stewart put the University on its present path of progress. Born in Scotland he travelled around the world looking for a country to settle in. After choosing Canada as the home of his new form, his plans were soon changed.

continued on page 11

## The Mace



by Laurie Hulnick

Last night in the Jubilee Auditorium, when the new president and chancellor of the university were inaugurated, a traditional part of the ceremony was the presentation to the new chancellor of the University of Alberta mace.

Centuries ago, the mace was a symbol of authority over life and death. Today it still represents power -- but it is the power of knowledge and the importance of the university in the community.

The University of Alberta mace, commissioned by the late chancellor F.P. Galbraith, was presented to the university by his son M. Galbraith, on May 26, 1970.

Very modern in appearance, the mace has simplicity and an almost geometric appearance with many planes and angles. The preponderance of visual weight at the top of the long, slender staff add to the impression of power.

The star of St. Thomas Aquinas, plated in gold, dominates the top of the mace. Its many points and large size are reminiscent of the use of the mace as a weapon.

The mace was designed and crafted in Exeter, England specifically for the University.

Its elements include: The star of St. Thomas Aquinas, patron saint of scholars; the wild rose of Alberta, floral emblem of the province; the Canadian maple leaf; and the individual heraldic emblems constituting the university's coat of arms. The university motto "Quaecumque Vera" (Whatever Things Are True) encircles the staff.

The four-foot six inch long mace is crafted in sterling silver which was rhodium plated so that a polished lustre could be retained with a minimum of maintenance.

Many of the emblems are wrought in twenty-four carat gold leaf.

The mace rests on a Bombay rosewood stand.

It was intended that the mace be modern in appearance but with medieval origins. The mace was a medieval defensive weapon in relationship to colleges of learning. It, like knowledge misused, was also an aggressive weapon in other hands.

Today, the mace symbolizes the authority of the chancellor. F.P. Galbraith, chancellor of the university from 1964 to 1970 conceived the mace as a token of thanks and planned to present it at the final convocation exercises of his term.

Publisher of the Red Deer Advocate, he died in Red Deer on May 16, 1970, at the age of seventy-three, six weeks before he was to retire as chancellor.

The mace, currently on display in the Jubilee Auditorium, is an integral and traditional part of convocation and installation ceremonies.