

Propertyman for Glee Club

STUDENT GOVERNMENT HISTORY # 45

When the newly elected 1929-30 Students' Council met to choose its officers, both the president and the vice-president were chosen by acclamation. The President was Fred Jennings, and the outgoing head of the Dalhousie Medical Students' Society. The previous President, Murray Rankin, had been a Commerce student so Jennings' election meant that for at least two years Law students lost their grip on the Council leadership.

When the Council began its work the GAZETTE predicted great things, largely due to the elections by acclamation. It was felt that previously supporters of the defeated candidates regarded themselves as the opposition, facing a "government". Although the officers were chosen from among the Council, as in a parliament, the newspaper felt that the resulting divisiveness hindered the Council's work.

Meanwhile the 1928-29 Council was finishing its work. One recurring item was about to be solved - whether the Glee Club should have a property man. It was decided that applications would be called in the GAZETTE, and it appeared that this job would be the start of student employment by the student government.

Later in March, after students showed little interest in the job as property man, the Council decided that it would appoint Sira Singer and his wife to the position. Mr. Singer provided the Glee and Dramatic Society with its professional leadership, especially on the musical side. The DAAC (Amateur Athletic Club) chose the dying months of the old Council to begin pressure for a seat on the Committee of Nine. This committee, with equal university, alumni and student representation, governed student-university relations. DAAC felt that one of the students seats should be held by the DAAC president instead of a Council member.

The Council received an official report that the university had ceased to grant a Munro Day holiday, but nothing was done about the matter. The luckless outdoor rink was still causing trouble for the Council. Although the lumber had finally been sold, lighting and other equipment was still being stored in the gym, and efforts were just starting to find a buyer.

A fairly significant decision was made by the Council at its last meeting, on April 22, 1929. The Biology Club had applied for recognition in March, and was turned down on the grounds that its appeal to the student body was not wide enough. In April it was decided that recognized student organizations would be divided into two groups. Group I were those with a wide appeal who wanted Council funding. Group II was for organizations without a general appeal. This division reflected the two-tiered student government created before the turn of the century. It also led to the dual recognition process that is now established in the Union by-laws. The Biology Club was the first organization to receive a Group II recognition.

When the Council authorized payment of its NFCUS dues it also approved payment of Dalhousie's share in the cost of the upcoming Canadian athletic conference. The "ancient" question of King's students participating in Dalhousie activities rose up again in a request that the King's students withdraw from Dalhousie student activities. The King's students had refused for four years to contribute towards the cost of these activities. The Dalhousie Council decided that it would not push the issue unless the Dalhousie Board of Governors agreed. Financial support for the track team was increasing as boxing proved unable to survive as an intervarsity sport.

defeat of a fee increase by the students, and they ended their term by referring the fee question to the new Council. The Glee and Dramatic Society was confirmed as an umbrella group when the Council refused an attempt by the choir to gain independence. All musical and dramatic activity would have to be done under D.G.D.S. auspices. D.G.D.S. had only recently started to have its officers elected in the Council elections.

It had been decided, following a contest, that the Dalhousie yearbook would be called Pharos, after the lighthouse at Alexandria. This name appealed so much to the GAZETTE that the masthead was redesigned to include a large lighthouse. In those pre-War years the GAZETTE was using the swastika as one of the graphic designs for column headings. The new Dean of Law was Sydney Smith, a brilliant lecturer who would later be President at the Universities of Manitoba and Toronto, and External Affairs Minister for John Diefenbaker.

The first issue facing the new Council when it met on October 1 was who could use the Council meeting room. The Council no longer met there, but both the university president and the GAZETTE wanted use of the room. For at least one year the Council preferred to let the newspaper in, so that Council could use the GAZETTE room for Council offices. Realities were observed in a decision to have negotiations among the three parties.

A further attempt to save athletic equipment resulted in the imposition on varsity players of a duty to return everything but the sweater, or else pay the difference. The Council decided to organize "pep meetings" before varsity games. Finally, the DDA lost its attempt to gain access to the Committee of Nine when a vacancy was filled by a Council member.

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