

FEATURE PAGE

DEBATING
by
Ed Fanjoy.

It is impossible to overestimate the value of debating. Leading thinkers in the field of education have always encouraged debate as one of the most valuable means of training to meet the problems of life. The student who puts his best efforts into debate gets much in return. He learns to use the library. He learns to be thorough and accurate. He learns to analyze; to distinguish between the vital and the unimportant. He learns the need to prove his statements with valid evidence and sound reasoning. Debating gives training in every major requirement of leadership.

Of course the degree in which these benefits are realized depends on the individual but in good debating they are inherent beyond question. The proportion of college debaters who win outstanding success in life is much greater than of college graduates in general. A recent estimate shows that the percentage in Who's Who in America is five times as great as the percentage of college graduates without debating training who are listed in the publication.

Besides the training given by debate, the activity has a more immediate appeal. It is a battle of wits with worthy opponents; a fight for intellectual supremacy in which victory rests with the debater who has used his head and expressed his thoughts the better.

Debating and public speaking are closely linked to the proper functioning of our democratic state. Our representatives in parliament, on discussing the merits of some proposed law, are engaging in debate. Whenever action is proposed it is debated and how can one better learn to transfer his thoughts to others than by debate?

The science of debating has in the past been held in the highest esteem in the United States and Great Britain. The results of this can be seen in the high standards of discussion in the legislative bodies of both countries. Most of the outstanding men in the U. S. Congress and the British House of Commons were debaters in their younger days. The same trend is seen in Canada though to a lesser degree.

What does this activity offer to the student in engineering, for example? It is well known that outstanding success in technical fields is difficult to achieve by technical means only. It is in the additional factors of administration and public relations that we have the difference between a job and a good job. It is always desirable and in many cases absolutely necessary for a man to be able to get on his feet and express himself clearly and accurately to his fellow humans.

At U. N. B. one of the oldest societies on the campus, the Debating Society, is seeing a resurgence of life. The value of its aims is beyond question. Debates are held every week and every member has the opportunity to debate and compete for the teams. Just drop into the next meeting of the society and see just what you too can get from this "sport."

Mechanical Logging

Congratulations on the new section in the Brunswickan, "Little Timber." To me it is by far the most interesting section in the paper, and I hope to see it increased in size and maintain its quality. Why not hear from the professors more often? I am sure they could give us a lot of new ideas from other parts of Canada and U. S. A. Also I feel sure many of the students who worked last summer in nearly every province of the Dominion, Newfoundland, and U. S. A. could find much to write about that would be of interest to us all. I can not see why such a large group as the Foresters should be satisfied with a minor place in this paper, in spite of the fact that Foresters are men of deeds and not of words.

I enjoyed especially the article of Oct 17, on logging in B. C. I agree with Pete Johnson that Mechanical Logging will soon be adapted to the conditions found in Eastern Canada. I was able to make a study of the equipment and the methods of the first company to go in for mechanical logging on a large scale in Eastern Canada, the Angle Pulp and Paper Mills of Forestville, P. Q., and here are some of the ideas that I picked up.

This company has experimented a great deal and has expended a vast sum of money in developing new methods of cutting pulpwood by mechanical means. These experiments have been so successful that they are increasing the number of their mechanical logging units, and they are confident that they have a satisfactory method worked out for conditions found in Eastern Canada.

Their mechanical units are entirely separate from their conventional logging camps, and the work proceeds in an entirely different manner, after the cruising has been done. As everything begins around the camps, a few rods about them. They are of two kinds, the camps of the choppers and those of the mechanics, tractor operators, saw operators, etc. The logging camps are very light and frequently moved in by canoe together with all food and supplies, as there are no roads. These camps are of canvas with boards for floors and walls. From these camps the "Planning and Layout" men go through the woods and mark out the entire area into roads that usually are 800 feet apart but may be more in some cases. Then the wood land between these roads is marked out in strips which are 80 feet wide and 400 feet long, but sometimes they run up to 1000 feet long. These strips are at an angle of about 70 degrees to the road. All the strips and roads are very plainly blazed by crews of two men who must plaque at least one mile of strips each day. Then a map is made of the area and shows the location of all the roads and strips. After some progress has been made at planning and layout, the choppers are started to work in these strips and on the roads. First there must be a swamped area down the centre of each strip 20 feet wide and the length of the strip, from this strip the trees and all high stumps, etc., must be removed. The trees are felled with their small end pointing towards the road and in this swamped area. The swamped area is kept clear of the tops and branches. In

cutting the trees where only one saw cut per tree is made, the mechanical chain saws have been tried and have not met with much success. The objections are that men had to work in crews of 3-5 hence wasted time, the weight of the saws, and lost time starting the machines many times a day. As a result most of the tree length felling is done by men working alone and using a bucksaw, with which they show the greatest skill.

As the cutting gets started roads are being pushed into the area by a road building gang who lack for nothing in the way of machinery and make the best of gravelled roads. When tractors can reach the temporary camp site, and for a yard in which to operate their large saw which cuts up the tree length into bolts and puts them into the water. The camps, about 30 in number are hauled in and placed about this area in the shape of a large open square. The camps were designed to be moved and are well suited to this purpose. They are 15 x 30 feet, very strongly made, and can be loaded on a trailer for a truck to haul or can be pulled along on skids by tractors. They are very sturdy and well built. Twelve men occupy each camp and find them very comfortable. The kitchen and mess hall consists of several of these placed together in sections until the required size is attained. A machine shop is also in sections but is of heavier construction. The van, and offices occupy still more of these camps and lastly there are camps devoted to shower baths and "indoor plumbing."

When the camps are in place the mechanical equipment is moved in and mechanical logging is about to start. The first step is to clear the roads through the chopped area and level them off with bulldozers, build culverts and bridges over the streams. Then, as the roads are gradually cleared, more and more tractors are started at "decking." Decking is the hauling of the logs out of the strips and landing them in a pile at the side of the road and is accomplished in this manner. Two iron blocks are carried to the back of a strip and anchored to trees or stumps, one at the side and the other in the centre of strip at the back end. Then a light manilla rope is pulled through the blocks or pulleys by hand and is in turn attached to the haul-back cable on the double winch at the back of the tractors. Then the rope and cable are passed

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"Sez Who"

During the recent hotly contested political campaign I frequently heard the statement "The government shouldn't be criticized like that." In a good Tory audience I overheard: "He shouldn't be allowed to speak like that." Oh no! Why not?

What is it? In a democracy every citizen is free to express his honest convictions about public affairs. Whether the government's doings please him or make him hot under the collar, he is free to speak out his mind—in arguments with his neighbors, on letters to the press, on messages to his member of parliament, in statements at public meetings. He is not only entitled to have a private opinion, but to toss it into the general pool of public opinion. And public opinion is what finally decides the fate of any government in a democracy. (An election campaign is a moulding or misdirecting of public opinion).

Why Important People can govern themselves only if they think and speak for themselves. The greatest danger to popular government is popular apathy. Our greatest need, therefore, is to get people interested in public affairs, to make them feel that the "government is their government," acting for them, speaking for them, making collective decisions for which every one in the nation is individually responsible.

People do not get that sense of partnership with their government unless they are absolutely free to discuss its policy. Limit that freedom, and you spread the feeling of sullen indifference or, worse still, suspicion and hostility towards the decisions and actions of the government.

What is it Not. Freedom of speech is not merely an individual right. Its exercise is a

public duty. Free speech is not only an opportunity to get things off your chest. It puts you under obligation to contribute your best to the formation of public opinion. If you shirk that responsibility in peacetime you are doing your country the same harm that a slacker does in war-time. And you are leaving the field wide open for the charlatan, the demagogue, and anybody else who knows how to exploit the public ignorance for his private gain.

Freedom of speech is not merely a chance for fault-finding, beefing and crabbing. It has a very positive function. Its purpose is to help solve public problems. To be sure, free speech means the right to criticize. But what is the point of criticism? It is to point out defects that must be remedied, mistakes that must be corrected, abuses that must be stopped.

Freedom of speech, of course, runs into certain snags. What should we do, for example, with the following:

1. The wind-bag, who talks with colossal self-confidence and abysmal ignorance?
2. The lunatic, who expounds with pathological fervor his fixed obsessions and crack-pot theories?
3. The demagogue, who screams hate, spreads lies, promotes prejudices, and inflames passions?

There are three things not to do with such people:

1. Don't put a martyr's halo around their head if you can help it. It is an unnecessary gift to social nuisances.
2. Don't suppress them into whispering campaigns. If they are going to talk anyway, let them talk out loud where they can be heard by those who can answer them.
3. Don't "crack down" on them in such a way as to restrict freedom of speech itself. The trouble is not

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MOST PIPE SMOKERS SAY "Yes!"

Ask any pipe smoker these questions . . . Do you like a tobacco that keeps your tongue cool? . . . a tobacco that packs easily? . . . a tobacco that burns smoothly? . . . a tobacco that stays lit? The answer will always be emphatically "Yes!"

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