

Debater cornered

Thurs., Dec. 3, 1925

We met Mr. Paul Reed, one of the members of the visiting Imperial Debating team, as he was strolling through the corridors of the Arts Building. For the next twenty minutes, between glancing at the rocks in the geology museum and taking a look at the library, we had the opportunity of asking him several questions - ten of them, in fact. Mr. Reed, by the way, is the member from the University of London, his college being King's in the famous Strand.

Mr. Reed went into considerable detail about the system of classes at English universities. There are about three general types of university there. First and foremost come the varsities like Oxford and Cambridge, then there are civic universities like those of Birmingham and Liverpool. The third class is the University of London. At Oxford and Cambridge the number of lectures is at a minimum, they are not strictly compulsory. These have the tutorial system, each student being under the supervision of a tutor, with whom he studies and who assists him in preparing for examination.

Now, having exhausted our store of queries in this field, we next turned our attention, and Mr. Reed patiently turned his to some things closer to our heart, namely, student self-government, college journalism, academic gowns and co-education.

And what we learnt was quite surprising indeed. Student self-government is common in British universities, but evidently not nearly as complex as with us. They have their Student Union buildings, partly for business purposes, but largely for social.

College journalism was our next field of discussion. Student newspapers, either daily or weekly, are unknown in the old land. A weekly or monthly magazine, partly literary in form, is the usual thing. British students, thought Mr. Reed, would not be enthusiastic over the idea of a newspaper, largely because it demands so much time, devoted to learning the mere technique of newspaper production, which, he thought, was not what people needed at a university.

At this point Mr. Reed was called away to a tea-fight, but after dinner, we managed, by careful detective work, to find him again, and placing our finger in his buttonhole, we continued.

When asked about an English custom of wearing gowns by Undergraduates, we were informed - and greatly to our astonishment - it's if anything, fading out, more particularly in science departments, although very common at the present. When they are worn it is by all classes; but in many cases the wearing of gowns seems to be confining itself to ceremonial occasions only.

As for the dread disease of women and co-education - (this is our own phrase, please don't blame Paul for) - is making great inroads everywhere in Britain. While some are enthusiastic over it, there are others bitterly hostile.

Lastly came the usual question of, "What is your impression and opinion of Canada, our University, etc?"

To this, Mr. Reed frankly replied that in a "60-mile-per-hour" tour such as he was enjoying, a very deep understanding of Canada and its institutions was difficult, nay, almost impossible. Of our university, however, he did say that he was immediately impressed with the wonderful, first-class equipment seen everywhere in Canada.

To say that we were agreeably impressed with Mr. Reed would be putting it mildly. We were greatly charmed with his pleasant manner, graceful use of language, his deep interest in Canadian affairs, and last, but not least, his kindness in permitting this interview to appear in The Gateway.

Council endorses native boycott

Wed. October 13, 1971

At a special meeting last night, students' council accepted a document stating that they would endorse and support the actions of the Indian people of Northeastern Alberta in their boycott of schools on reserves. The document further stated that council will sponsor a benefit concert in Dinwoodie Lounge, October 14.

Academic vice-president Dave Biltek, in introducing the document said that he wanted to make students aware of the Indian situation and to bring pressure to bear on government officials, particularly on Indian Affairs minister Jean Chretien.

Mr. John Perehinec, a spokesman for the Indians said that the problem has been developing for several years. "In following channels, they have always come up against dead ends."

He said that the Indian Affairs department has spend half a million dollars to help build schools where there were no Indians entering grade one. These schools have limits set preventing classes from being more than ten or twenty per cent Indian. Teachers have encouraged Indian students to drop out in an effort to raise class averages.

The school now on the Cold Lake reserve has been made to look fine on the outside, but the inside of the school is a different story. Water is drawn from a polluted stream, and pipes leak. Portable classrooms are built as a temporary measure. These temporary measures last forever.

The suicide rate in Indian schools is becoming astronomical. Alcohol and drug rates are climbing. "The people are becoming concerned with what is becoming of their lives," said Mr. Perehima.

ALUMNI SUPPLEMENT COMPILED BY MARY MACDONALD

Senior Class Dance Beyond Description - Page Graydon Tipp
Thurs., Feb. 18, 1926

On Friday evening, February 12, the senior class entertained at the "Midwinter." The dance was an extremely successful one, and has been described even by juniors as "the most enjoyable in years." Class '26 evidently set out to put on a function in which they could combine the dignity of their year with the carefree spirit of enjoying life common to undergraduates in general. They achieved their seemingly impossible object with apparent ease. To what their success is due, of course, is impossible to ascertain. Certainly, however, the very fine music, the dining-room floor, a dainty supper, streamers, and a not too large crowd were noteworthy factors in the victory.

The dance was held under the patronage of Mrs. Egbert, Mrs. Tory, Mrs. Kerr, Mrs. Howes, Mrs. Burt, Mrs. MacLeod, Mrs. Downs, Mrs. Pope and Miss Dodd.

First "Midwinter"

The "Midwinter" was held this year for the first time. It was opened first to members of the class, of the Alumni, of the staff and their friends; later a limited number of other undergraduates were enabled to attend. The limiting of the number attending the function greatly increased the pleasure of those who were able to be present.

The action of the Students' Union at last Friday's meeting will probably result in the "Midwinter" becoming an annual affair. Its future popularity, if such is the case, was practically assured on Friday evening.

Graydon Tipp's orchestra was in no small way a actor in the success of the dance. Playing "up to the minute" and favorite classical selections, the real musicianship of that organization was never more in evidence. A promenade and nineteen dances were played. Two moonlight waltzes, "Barcarolle" and "The Merry Widow," were warmly appreciated by the dancers.

Cold punch was "on tap" throughout the evening.

Supper was served in the gymnasium by Miss Russel and her staff, after the eighth number on the programme. The tables were tastefully decorated, and lighted by candles.

About three-quarters of the way through the evening, streamers appeared, usually in motion. They many-coloured paper ribbons succeeded very ably in draping themselves over some wires across the hall which, up to that time, had passed unnoticed.

The lounge was made a most restful place of repose for between dances by darkened lights, comfortable furniture and dozens of many coloured cushions.

The hall itself was left almost clear to enable the dances to enjoy the music to the fullest. The lights were all shaded to a quiet glow with the single exception of a large senior banner on the west wall.

The whole function showed evidences of painstaking care on the part of those who made the dance possible. The committee in charge consisted of: Ross Henderson (chairman), Shirley MacDonald, Morty Watts and Louise Patterson.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW PREMIER

Hon. J.E. Brownlee Takes Over Guidance of Provincial Government of Alberta

The recent change in the premiership of the province is a matter of considerable interest to the University of Alberta. The University has always received kindly and considerate treatment from the provincial cabinet, and the friendly relationship has done much to assist in the development of Varsity.

Mr. Brownlee, the new premier, is well known as a friend of the University, and his appointment speaks well for a continuation of co-operation between the government and the University.

The new head of government is a man of training and character, well-fitted for his high office. He was the head of a highly-reputed firm of solicitors in Calgary, when he was called upon to assume the office of Attorney-General in 1921. Although

such a change meant small personal gain to him, he undertook his new duties with a resolve that could well be followed by University students.

Mr. Brownlee is an outstanding proof of the theory that a man of high character, with the proper training, will reach the top. He has never been an office-seeker; yet his outstanding suitability for leadership has made him in demand, and he now finds himself at the helm of the provincial ship of state.

TORY REPLIES TO PESSIMISTS

Thurs. Nov. 19, 1925

Now, just a word about the statement accredited in your editorial to Dr. J. N. Finley, recently of an institution in California, but who has taken a position in Mexico. He is reported as stating, "When I sit in my classroom and look at a male stue- and moral unfit behind a coat of face powder and cosmetics (*sic*), I wonder which way our civilization is headed." The implication is that he is describing a general condition among American students. I do not happen to know Dr. Finley, personally, but I would respectfully suggest that "in the land of the free and the home of the brave" more weight would be attached to the statement had he made it while still at work in his native country. If, however, anyone were to make such a statement as of general application to Canadian students, I would not hesitate to pronounce it a coarse and vulgar slander.

I have been for forty years intimately associated with student life in Canada, first as a student, then as a professor, and finally as a university president. I think I know the Canadian student as few men know him. On the other hand, I think I am sufficiently a man of the world to know men and women as a whole, particularly Canadian men and women. With a full sense, therefore, of the responsibility for such a statement, I state my positive conviction that for honesty of purpose, fair-mindedness, clean living, generosity to their fellows, sense of responsibility and devotion to work, there is no group of young men and women in Canada of like age that compare with the student group. Fully seventy-five percent are working their way, in whole or part, through college and value highly both their time and their money. There are few, of course, who do not value this privilege, but so far as the University of Alberta is concerned we have definitely organized machinery for eliminating such from our classes at the end of the freshman year. That this is effectively done is shown by the fact that not more than sixty per cent of those who enter the first year reach graduation.

As to the numbers attending the university being to high in proportion to population, I think it is sufficient to state the fact that of the ten or fifteen pupils who entered the schools of the province, say ten years ago, the process of elimination, due to difficulties in the school curriculum, inability to face the problems of high school, and finally the inability to go on to a university, either for financial or intellectual reasons, has reduced the number to approximately the three hundred who enter the university annually.

I know there are still some people who think higher education is a luxury. With such people I can have no argument. Anyone who knows the history of the development of science and its relation to the industrial and social organization of

the modern world during the last one hundred and fifty years knows that the foundations of all our progress have been laid by the men who, having themselves attained a knowledge of some of the most profound secrets of nature, taught us how to use that knowledge for our comfort and advantage. The ignorant will doubtless continue to listen to the ignorant. But I am happy to believe that the day is dawning when knowledge of the task to be undertaken will be regarded as a first essential for those seeking public responsibility.

Boisterous conduct checked

Fines in Residence - Friday, Nov. 1, 1935

An accompanying news story tells of recent surprising occurrences with respect to the levy of fines by the Men's House Committee in the University residences.

The Men's House Committee is elected from the resident student body by the resident study body, and their duty is to act as a sane and sensible police force to ensure good conduct in the buildings apart from any definite regulations or restrictions. In other words, their duties in the past have been to control the use of radios during study hours and to check boisterous conduct in the interests of the welfare of all the students. They have never been considered to be a serious power in the enforcement of the University regulations as to liquor in residence and hazing. That was not part of their duties, but was rather left to the Provost, the Assistant Provost and the University staff.

Now this present edition of the House Committee, swept into power last year on a platform of defiance, or at least non-co-operation with the University officials in the enforcement of their regulations, has commenced a policy of fining students for petty offences which would shock the authorities of a prep school, and being doubtful as to the wisdom of such a policy, called on the Provost and received his unconditional backing. Impetus was let to the wave of oppression.

The students, aroused by the series of fines for such petty offences as tossing napkins at the table, taking short-cuts across the lawns, singing in the bathrooms, and finally coming to meals wearing slippers and the recognized official Varsity blazer, are circulating a petition calling for refund of the fines and a cessation of the fining. The fact that the petition at present contains over two hundred names suggests that the House Committee is suffering from a serious want of confidence, and out of respect to their electors should immediately tender their resignations. They might seek reelection on their policy as it really is, not as it was elucidated to their electors last spring.

Student self-government in respect to discipline and conduct has been steadily on the wane for several years now, but this final invasion of the students' rights and liberties and by their own elected representatives tops the lot.