

MCGILL AS VIEWED IN 'GOOD OLD DAYS'

Reminiscences of University in 'Nineties Given by Prof. N. N. Evans

NO CO-EDS AT THAT TIME

Students Had No Cabarets, Movies and Other Distrac- tions to Interfere With Studies

Delightful glimpses of McGill as it was fifty years ago were conjured up by N. N. Evans, B.A.Sc., '36, M.Sc. '92, and now professor of chemistry at the university, in a radio broadcast sponsored by the McGill Graduates' Society over Station CKAC last evening.

McGill in "the good old days," Prof. Evans showed, combined a pastoral peacefulness with the activity of a bee-hive. Principal Dawson cultivated his garden in the northeast corner of the campus and, besides performing the duties of principal, taught all the geology, zoology and botany in the calendar. The students, a bearded and moustachioed group of mature young men, with no cabarets or co-eds to distract them, worked hard and seriously.

Fifty years ago the university grounds were separated from Sherbrooke street by a wooden fence of somewhat ancient character, in the middle of which were unpretentious wooden gates, at the foot of the college avenue, Prof. Evans stated in opening his address:
On the west, or left, side of the avenue was the playing-field where in those days the football matches and other games took place, and where were held the annual college sports. As far as I remember, there was no seating accommodation, the spectators standing around and thus viewing the various events as best they might. The present tennis courts had not been thought of.

On the east side of the avenue was some level ground with trees and a circular bandstand; and the upper end was Dr. Dawson's private garden, where he might often be seen at work in the spring and fall. Down the east side was a pretty little wooded glen through which ran a tiny stream.
The shade trees along the avenue were much smaller than they are now, most of them having been planted not so many years before by the principal, Dr. Dawson, with his own hand and assisted by Robert Hamilton, the efficient and respected janitor of the Arts Building.

The main building stood across the head of the avenue, with McGill's tomb in front, and outwardly looked much as it does today, thanks to the skill of those who had charge of its reconstruction a few years ago. In this building almost all the academic work of the faculties of arts and applied science was carried on. The west wing was known, after its donor, as Molson Hall, and housed the library and reading-room on the ground floor and the Convocation Hall above. The east wing, now occupied by the college offices, was originally intended to be a dormitory; but some time before the period of which we speak, it had been converted into two dwellings, the one in front being the residence of Dr. Dawson, the principal, and the one behind that of the secretary, registrar and bursar, O'Hara Baynes; there too he had his tiny office—the only college office—presided over by himself and one clerk.

There were but three other buildings: the little observatory, the Redpath Museum (which had been opened only that summer), and the old medical building, a rather handsome structure which was afterwards burned down, and which stood on the site of the front of the present biology building.

MANY LIMITATIONS.

Had one entered the main building, it would have been obvious

that it was rather in need of repairs and that it was lighted after dark by means of gas (and not much gas!). During lecture hours, professors and students wore gowns, both in class and about the building; and a large proportion of these individuals—there were no women; they were not admitted till two years later—also wore moustaches, whiskers and even full beards. Most of the not very numerous teaching staff were full professors, there were few lecturers and no demonstrators; and certain of these worthy gentlemen were characters indeed. Some of the limitations under which the institution struggled will be apparent when it is mentioned that there were no laboratories, except a very small chemical laboratory; and that practically none of the professors had private offices—their classrooms serving for this as well as other purposes. Most of the members of the staff were devoted men, conscientiously doing all they could, with in many cases most limited resources, for the promotion of the study of their particular branches. Not a few of them had to give instruction in a variety of subjects.

At that time too the staff in applied science being exceedingly limited (as was also the number of students), outside engineers very generously delivered technical lectures at the college in the evenings.

For instruction in freehand drawing, the engineering students were obliged to attend the evening classes of the Council of Arts and Manufactures, held at the east end of St. James street, more than a mile from the college; and it will be remembered by many of them that they were experimenting during the winter of 1882-83 on that thoroughfare with the first electric arc lamps used for street lighting (about four of them).

And what about the students themselves? It is difficult for one who was of their number to compare them unprejudicially with those of today. The districts from which many of them were drawn were very much more sparsely settled than they are now; and outside a very few of the cities and towns, the school instruction was inadequate. Hence, many, perhaps most, of the men coming up to McGill were poorly prepared, and in addition they had very little money. (I very much doubt if there were more than three dress suits among the lot!) Quite a number had been obliged to work for a few years after leaving school for the small funds which they had, with the consequence that there was a larger proportion of students of rather mature years than there is today. I think that the majority worked harder than they do now, but this was made easier by the fact that there were almost no outside distractions; there were no lady students, no radios, no movies, cabarets, class dances, junior proms. There was not even a Strathcona Hall or a Students' Union. College athletics were exceedingly amateurish and did not take much time, and athletic coaches were an unknown quantity in those benighted times. Strange as it may seem, there was a gymnasium, on University street, below Cathcart; but physical training was not obligatory, and not a very large number of students availed themselves of what there was.

HABEAS CORPUS WRIT Custody of Child Sought After Divorce Judgment

The validity of a judgment of the Supreme Court of Ontario, which divorced Vincent Rinaldi and his wife, Oliva Lauzon, may be challenged in habeas corpus proceedings which Rinaldi yesterday instituted in the Superior Court here. The Ontario tribunal awarded him custody of a seven-year-old boy, but the wife, he claims, has refused to surrender the child. Rinaldi's petition for a writ of habeas corpus was granted and will be argued upon in due course.

Rinaldi and Oliva Lauzon were married in the Roman Catholic church at St. Louis de Terrebonne, Que., in 1919. Two children were born to the marriage but only Adrien, aged seven, survives. Two weeks ago the couple were divorced by the Ontario court in an action brought by Rinaldi, who was awarded custody of the child. Rinaldi now claims that his former wife is in Montreal and has been living with her, and through habeas corpus he seeks to have the judgment of the Ontario court

HARPELL CASE TO COME UP MONDAY

Arrangements Made to Avoid Delay—Chief Justice to Preside

So as not to delay the hearing of the Harpell trial in the Court of King's Bench on Monday morning, Mr. Justice Charles A. Wilson will pass sentence on two prisoners found guilty during the present term of the Assizes in one of the Court of Sessions court rooms.

The men to be sentenced are Sebastian Vaitz, convicted of indecent assault, and J. E. Lalonde, found guilty of manslaughter in connection with a death arising out of an automobile accident. Five other prisoners remain to be sentenced by Chief Justice Green-shields who presided at their trial, and who, it is expected, will handle the Harpell case, and their sentences will be deferred until the completion of the libel hearing. The men are: Louis Miller, Charles Feigenbaum, Max Finklestein, Julius Levine and Julius Cohen. Feigenbaum pleaded guilty to the offence of smuggling goods into Canada from the United States, the remaining four being found guilty of the offence by jury.

As far as could be ascertained the Harpell trial will proceed on Monday. E. A. B. Ladouceur, K.C., Clerk of the Crown, stated yesterday that the case was on the roll and that the arrangements made for Mr. Justice Wilson to sentence the prisoners in one of the Court of Sessions rooms lent weight to his belief that the case would go on. He recalled also that the Chief Justice had signified his intention of finishing the case during the November Assizes and had made that clear to counsel.

VANCOUVER MARKET Gains and Losses Were Fairly Well Divided

Vancouver, December 16.—Gains and losses were fairly well divided on the Vancouver Stock Exchange today. Total sales were 35,500 shares, slightly above yesterday. Closing bid price on Bralorne was 1.12, six cents below yesterday's close but sales were all at 1.18. Pioneer Gold was down five cents at .45. Reno closed at .61, up one cent. In the oils, A. P. Con. gained one cent at .06½ and Mercury ¾ cent at .07%.

Turtle Soup King Busy

London, December 16.—Britain's turtle soup season has been officially opened by the Lord Mayor's banquet, and James Coffey is consequently a very busy man. Mr. Coffey is London's high priest of turtle soup and has a precious 200-year-old secret formula for the delicate consommé which heralds important aldermanic dinners. In olden days London aldermen used to consume vast quantities of turtle soup. Mr. Coffey says such is not so true these days.

CANADIAN PACIFIC SAILING EUROPE HONOLULU NEW ZEALAND

GLASS Dec. 22 Dec. 23 Jan. 1

FLEW 25 YEARS AGO

Dr. Graham Bell's Machine Made in Baddeck Workshop

(Special to The Gazette.)
Baddeck, N.S., December 16.—Twenty-five years ago this month, to be exact, on December 13, 1907, an item appeared in the press to the effect that Dr. Alexander Graham Bell's flying machine rose to a considerable height after being taken from the workshop at Baddeck, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. The machine, which had not then a motor installed, but was used as a glider, was in charge of the late Lieutenant Selfridge, U.S.A., for whom Selfridge Field, Mount Clements, Mich., is named. Previous to this, F. W. "Casey" Baldwin, a grandson of Hon. Robert Baldwin, Premier of Canada before Confederation, made what is claimed to be one of the first public flights of an airplane in North America when he flew a machine powered with a gasoline motor at Baddeck which was the joint effort of himself as chief engineer, with Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, J. A. D. McCurdy, Glenn H. Curtis and others, who organized an effort at Baddeck for the purpose of producing a successful flying machine.

On this flight of March 12, 1907, it is stated the plane, which was named the Red Bird, raced 150 feet, then took off and at a general altitude of from ten to twenty feet flew for a distance of 319 feet and alighted without mishap. In the next flight he crashed the Red Bird.

Mr. Baldwin designed a machine, the White Wing, which made a world's record flight of 339 yards in 1908. Baddeck figures prominently in the early history of aviation and the late Dr. Alexander Graham Bell is buried at the top of the hill overlooking the town and beautiful Bras d'Or Lake, a simple boulder marking his last resting place. During the tourist season, according to the tourist and convention bureau of the Canadian National Railways, many tourists make a pilgrimage to the grave to see where the remains of the man who gave the world the telephone and who also contributed largely to the development of the heavier-than-air flying lies. Dr. Bell was so entranced with the beauty of the scenery around Baddeck that he built a summer home there and carried on many experiments in the laboratory which he established close by.

Skating Accident Is Fatal

Chicoutimi, Que., December 16.—Edmond, nine-year-old son of Arthur Bergeron, of this town, is dead from a broken spine, received in a fall while skating.

Norbeck Bill Favored

Washington, December 16.—A favorable report on the Norbeck Bill giving the Secretary of Agriculture power to adjust seed, feed and crop production loans was made today by the United States agriculture committee.

CUN ANCHOR A From Dec. 22 Dec. 23 Jan. 1