

The relative stability in the total yearly enrolment during the war years tends to conceal several important changes. In the first place, the number of male students has decreased, while the number of women students has increased to a remarkable degree. The number of regular male students who have left college to enlist in the armed forces grows increasingly large and impressive. Secondly, the total student enrolment of men and women, particularly men, has during the last four years, shown a sharp decline in such fields as the humanities, education and law, while increasing numbers of students are presenting themselves for degrees in medicine, engineering and the physical sciences.

UNIVERSITY
STUDENTS
AND
NATIONAL
SELECTIVE
SERVICE

The more or less normal enrolment in Canadian universities during war years is not the result of a policy designed to spare the intellectual life of the country at the expense of the war effort. Educational leaders have at all times co-operated eagerly with the government in every contribution that could be made to the war effort. At the outset of the war Canadian universities offered their resources unreservedly to the government. Their scientific staffs, their professors trained in languages and the art of government their laboratories and equipment have remained at the disposal of the country since 1939.

The policy which has prevailed in respect of universities has been determined by the closest collaboration between the universities and the various departments of government concerned with the allocation of Canada's manpower. That policy is that, where it is in the national interest, educational interests will not be interfered with.

It is clear that National Selective Service has placed a definite importance on university training. Universities are recognized as being able to make a unique contribution to national efficiency in war as well as in peace. In realizing that trained scientific and technical men are needed for all the fighting forces as well as for war industry, National Selective Service has given due recognition to the fact that it is largely from the universities that such trained men come. At an increasing rate in the last five years, Canadian universities have been turning out engineers, medical men, scientists and research specialists for Canadian industry and the armed services.

The government's policy that, where it is in the national interest, educational interests will not be interfered with, clearly applies to those university students, whose courses lead them directly into war services. This policy, however, does not apply only to universities on the scientific and technical side. It applies to them also on the more purely academic side. Canadian universities have not been transformed from liberal arts colleges into occupational institutions. Enrolment in arts faculties is reduced, and their staffs have been depleted, but, except at the post-graduate level, the usual range of work is being carried on for the most part. Their situation reflects the attitude of the government as expressed in a published letter of the Prime Minister to the Canadian Social Science Research Council in 1943: "I wish to express on behalf of the government our recognition of the importance to our future as a nation, and to the cause for which we are fighting, of the maintenance of the liberal tradition of education in the humanities."

The responsibility of Canadian universities for the training of men and women during the present war must inevitably be augmented further by the fact that academic life all over the world is being seriously disturbed, and, in some places denied, especially