

DALHOUSIE Gazette

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Milestone

Tomorrow, when the new Arts and Administration building is officially opened it will mark the end of an era at Dalhousie and the beginning of one which, we hope, will be richly fulfilled.

At a time when our politicians cry that the 3rd World War is not merely idle speculation but an ever present peril, when our scientist claim that with our population increasing by the millions every year we have even now outstripped our food supply, when our philosophers decry the loss of our moral standards and prophecy the downfall of our civilization, that one institution in which hope still exists and which can still bring light into darkness is expanding.

Dalhousie is only one of the many universities across Canada which is planning or is at present in the process of expansion of present facilities. Almost without exception the universities have found their classroom, library and laboratory facilities strained beyond capacity — even when the D.V.A. students have left and they are now striving to alleviate the situation. Perhaps it is a sign that it is still not too late for action.

We as university students are given the opportunity to learn many things denied the majority but we must never forget the obligation which accompanies that privilege and which is expressed in the fact of the very erection of our new building and that is to make use of it. What we have is not ours to enjoy selfishly but must yet be used to the advantage of the entire nation.

Letters to the Editor on Russian Student Exchange

Editor,
The question of whether or not NFCUS should approve an exchange of students between this country and the Soviet Union, has raised a number of interesting problems, many of which go to the root of our democratic way of life.

In the first place, the whole issue has immense propaganda value for both sides. The Soviet Government has already announced its conditional acceptance, for whatever that is worth, so it would be a definite sign of weakness for the Canadian organizers of the plan to back down, as the Russians no doubt expect they will, especially as they are the originators of the whole scheme.

Some people have suggested that our feeble little intellects would be swayed by the superior minds, propaganda-trained, of the "agents" the Russians would send over here. I think the opposite would happen, and that not only would actual life-sized Russkies disgust a number of our few remaining parlour pinks, but that the students sent over here from Russia would be most unwilling to return to their homeland. Russia may be a heaven on earth, but there would seem to be a regular stream of disgruntled angels fighting tooth and nail to get into countries still unenlightened and ignorant of the very elementals of Marxian Socialism.

On the other hand we have to admit that sending Canadian students to Russia will not convert the whole USSR to democracy as we know it. In fact it will probably be difficult to find any decent students that will be willing to risk their necks and go to live amongst the insecurities of a police state, especially a country ready to make war on anybody or everybody, us included. There will be an immediate rush of fellow-travellers and home-grown Reds to take advantage of this opportunity. If these are sent they may or may not be disillusioned by the harsh actuality which the Russians really think is the best country in the world. In any event they will lead the Russians to think that all Canadians are pro-Communists, waiting for the Day to rise against their oppressors.

On the other hand, militant democratic students would only tend to get into trouble and cause riots, maybe even ending up in jail as "spies". They might even be held as hostages in case of outbreak of war in the near future. If students of the right kind are willing to go, they should be sent; it is too great a challenge to let pass unheeded.

Probably the Russians will call off the whole deal if they find we mean business; they already know that it is a bad practice to let Russians see the way of life in the outside world.

We have nothing to lose; the students who go from here are the ones taking the risk. We may lose greatly in prestige if we fail to take this opportunity. The scheme should be approved.
C. W. MacIntosh

November 28, 1951

Dear Madam:
Faced as we are with Soviet hostility, today is not a time for the type of idealism shown by those clamouring for a Canadian-Russian student exchange. Such a plan has been advocated as a means of seeking a modus vivendi with Russia.

There can be no modus vivendi with Soviet Communism, and we must remember that any Russian students participating would be Soviet Communists. It is absolutely futile to seek a modus vivendi at the student level. Men at higher planes such as Benes and Masaryk found that their attempts led to the grave. Nothing could be accomplished by adopting the Lazure proposal which is the underlying issue in the current controversy.

We would be beating our heads against, not the traditional stone wall, but against the much more familiar iron curtain.

Co-operation is possible only on a mutual basis. Communists co-operate only when their cause will benefit, viz: Russia did not start World War II, but she seized every possible advantage for the Communist cause from the victory.

To favour the plan is to try to convince one's self that Communism and Democracy can live together in "peaceful co-existence". Stalin believes in co-existence only when the free world appears unripe for Communist experiments, i.e., when stability prevails in non-Red countries. The plan of world domination is ever-present. Stalin has placed the emphasis on timing.

Apart from the futility of the plan, as a former vice-president of NFCUS, it is my belief that the greatest weakness of NFCUS today is its preoccupation with an emphasis on international matters. NFCUS is losing sight of the fact that its primary purpose is to serve its members, the students of Canada, directly.

Yours very truly,
Ronald C. Stevenson,
Law II.

is regrettable for Nova Scotia that Acadia, since the advent of Kirkconnell, has become so isolationist and intellectually stunted. I am strongly in favour of making vigorous efforts to effect some exchange plan not only with Russia, but with other countries such as India and China.

Yours truly,
Donald D. Betts

24th Nov., 1951

Editor of Dalhousie Gazette.
Your request for student opinion on a proposal for Soviet (mind you, Soviet—not Russian) Student Exchange, possesses sufficient stimulus to awaken a new Dalhousian from "apathy".

May I submit the opinion that comes from a fellow who had the "pleasure" of observing the work of Russian Communism at close quarters.

The people behind the proposal do not seem to comprehend with whom they are dealing. They can be assured that the "brain-waves" who will arrive in Canada, will possess the best training the colleges of the Communist Party can offer. Freedom, as it exists in Canada and the rest of the free world in general, will appear to them ridiculous, and we can be sure that this freedom will in no way inspire the comrades. On the contrary, they will successfully manage to poison the minds of a large number of Canadian students who, compared to the Communist-ideology inspired comrades, are but simple-minded country hicks. I doubt gravely if any student here in Dalhousie possesses the mentality and capability of contradicting and annihilating the arguments put forward to them by the representatives of the "greatest free nation of the world".

Some people maintain that the Communists received lethal blows during discussions in some Canadian Universities. It is all very well to stage debates, putting forward the views of both sides. But the recent defeats of the Communists do not eliminate the possibility of spreading the germs of propaganda among the people. The Canadian Communists are an ignorant bunch, without any capability whatsoever of expounding the views of the Russian Communist doctrine. They believe in the ideal Communism of Marx and Engels — the fundamental teach-
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LIKE SYSTEMATIC STUDY,
ALWAYS BRINGS SUCCESS