

Gazette Nominates R. J. Rankin As Honorary Atlantic CUP President

At the recent conference of the Atlantic Region of the Canadian University Press, it was decided that a position of Honorary President be instituted this year. The position of Honorary President will be held for a maximum of two years.

One of the duties of the Honorary President will be to address the yearly meeting of the Atlantic Region of the Canadian University Press, which is held at a different university every year.

Jack Hann Winner Of Fraser Award

Harry Jack Hann, a fourth year dentist student was awarded the Graeme Fraser award last Friday night at the Annual Pine Hill "At Home." The award was founded in 1931 by the residents of Pine Hill to perpetuate the memory of Hugh Graeme Fraser, an honor student in Chemistry fatally injured in a lab experiment at Dalhousie.

The winner this year has proven himself worthy of the award, not only by the kind of person he is, but also because of his record as a student and he has contributed to the life and fellowship of Pine Hill during his four years there.

Jack, who hails from Port Aux Basque, Newfoundland, graduates this year with his Doctor of Dental Surgery.

Patty MacLeod Pine Hill Choice

Miss Patty MacLeod, Pine Hill's choice for their Queen, and their candidate for Campus Queen, was crowned last Friday evening at the forty-eighth annual Pine Hill "At Home." The coronation, in keeping with the Pine Hill traditions, was the highlight of this, the chief social function of the year.

Before two hundred admirers, the Queen was borne in triumphant procession into the Hall and was escorted to her throne. She was welcomed in both English and Gaelic. The honorary degree of M.D., C.M. (Marvellous Darling, Quite Marvellous) was conferred upon her. The Cardinal presented her with the Mace, the symbol of her authority. John Mercer admitted her to honorary membership on the Dalhousie Radio Committee. The Pope crowned her with the traditional Pine Hill Tam-o-Shanter, and named her "Queen Patty I".

Those universities present at the Conference held at Dal last week have the right to nominate a candidate for the position and all the member universities will vote on those nominated.

The nominations for the post ended on Monday, Feb. 15. Two Universities have made nominations, Dr. George Boyd, St. F.X. professor nominated by the Xavierian, who is also on the Extension Department of that University. The other nomination from the Dal Gazette is for Mr. Robert Rankin, President of the Canadian Press.

The vote for this post will be taken by mail this Monday, Feb. 22. At that time the elected Honorary President will be announced.

President Entertains DGDS

Dr. and Mrs. A. E. Kerr entertained the members of the Dalhousie Glee and Dramatic Society at a tea in their home Saturday afternoon, February 13, from four to six o'clock. Members of the executive of the D.G.D.S., the cast of "As You Like It", the cast and orchestra of "The Gondoliers", stage crew for the two productions—anyone who is any way connected with the productions of the D.G.D.S., was invited to attend.

The pourers were Mrs. H. P. Bell, Mrs. C. L. Bennet, Mrs. A. C. Fraser and Mrs. Frank O. Day. The wives of the members of various faculties assisted in serving.

As is the custom of all the teas that Dr. and Mrs. Kerr give for the Glee Club, everybody gathered around the piano to sing songs from "Gondoliers", "Pinafore", "Iolanthe" and other song favorites both old and new. Eleanor Ritcey, well-known around the campus for her pianistic ability, accompanied the singers for more than an hour.

NOTICES

CANTERBURY CLUB

On Sunday evening, Feb. 21, at 8:30 p.m., Canterbury Club will meet as usual in All Saints Cathedral Hall. Dr. A. E. Kerr, president of Dalhousie, will speak on the subject of church union and unity. All interested are welcome.

HILLEL FOUNDATION

The regular bi-weekly business and cultural meeting of the Hillel Foundation of Dalhousie will be held Sunday afternoon at four o'clock in the YMHA Hostel. Notable item on the agenda will be an address by Rabbi I. Mayevsky on "Proposed Hillel Operations at Dalhousie."

SUMMER JOBS

The Aluminum Company of Canada, Limited, is accepting application for summer employment for undergraduates, particularly third and fourth year students in mechanical, electrical, chemical and metallurgical engineering. They are also interested in any medical undergraduates and any individuals who are engaged in post-graduate studies. Additional information and application forms may be obtained at the Registrar's office.

SELECTIVE SERVICE TEST

All eligible students who intend to take the Selective Service College Qualification Test in 1954 should file applications at once for the April 22 administration. Selective Service National Headquarters advised today. Additional information may be seen on the university notice boards.

CORSAGES FOR BALL

Any young gallant going to the Engineers' Ball who wishes to take his lady fair a corsage may select one down at the shack from 3:30 to 4:30 on Friday the 19th. Corsages will also be available at the Nova Scotian in the evening.

The closing date for applications for NFCUS Scholarship has been extended one week. All those who are interested are asked to contact the Registrar or Dennis Madden.

President of Toronto University Addresses Dalhousie Law School

Dr. Sidney E. Smith, Nova Scotian born President of the University of Toronto and one of Canada's outstanding educators was in Halifax this week. At noon on Tuesday Dr. Smith gave a very interesting address to the Faculty and students of the Dalhousie Law School.

After speaking of his days at Dalhousie and the great men this school has produced, he spoke of the close co-operation between faculty and students and between the school and downtown lawyers. He also spoke of the high moral standing and deep understanding that is developed as well as scholastic standing.

On Monday evening Dr. Smith addressed the Dalhousie Alumni Association at a dinner held at the Nova Scotian Hotel. On this occasion he spoke on the standing of Maritime Universities and noted the value in Federation.

Dr. Smith graduated from the Dalhousie Law School in 1920 and after serving on the faculty was appointed Dean in 1929. For ten years prior to his present position he was President of the University of Manitoba.

Commerce Society Makes Nominations

A meeting of the Commerce Society was held Thursday to discuss the nomination of representatives to different activities on the campus.

Elsie Lane was chosen as the Commerce choice for Campus Queen. Dennis Madden was nominated as representative of NFCUS and Bill McCurdy was nominated as Commerce representative for the Students' Council.

Another item discussed at the meeting was the problem of having a better turnout for sport activities. More notices will be posted concerning the subject and sports managers will do their utmost to produce a better turnout.

ENGINEERS & CHEMISTS

Atomic Energy of Canada Limited has openings in its operating divisions for graduates with a good academic standing in one of the following engineering fields: Chemical, Mechanical, Electrical and Engineering Physics. Interesting work on plant operation, pilot plant and development work, instrumentation — both electronic and process, mechanical maintenance, chemical control, chemical plant design, mechanical design and estimating and planning.

Employee benefits include leave, medical and superannuation plans.

Pleasant living conditions in modern town with excellent facilities for cultural, educational and recreational activities.

We also invite applications for summer employment from third year students and graduates.

Please arrange through your University Employment Office to see our representative who will visit this campus on the 22nd of February, 1954.

NINETEEN FIFTY-FOUR

Taken from the journal of an ex-slave labourer in Soviet Russia, by N. Vito

Translated from the Russian by O. V. Pudymaitis

CHAPTER 6 HELL

Sometime in January, 1942, I arrived in the special camp into which Latvians from all nearby concentration camps were brought. We numbered about 5,000. Here I met many of my friends. They regarded me as one resurrected from the dead. I was the only witness of what had happened to the prisoners who fell during our death-march across the tundra. All prisoners had by that time grown used to the senseless brutality of the guards. Even so, my tale created a new flow of emotions among my comrades.

We were told that we would be sent to Sverdlovsk in the Ural Mountains. On the 27th of Jan. we were on our way. Everything was as before; the same cattle-cars with the rear waggon filled with dead; 200 grammes of rye bread each 24 hours; the screams and groans of the dying; lice; water in salt-herring barrels. Only in the beginning of March our train stopped. The temperature was 44 degrees below. We were in Sverdlovsk. We were taken out (many of us could not walk) of the cattle-cars in which we had spent 5 1-2 weeks.

In the woods, near an aircraft factory, a large number of tents were spread over the ground. The whole area was surrounded by barbed wire. Inside the tents the snow was 1 meter deep. We were told that we would stay here only for one day — until we got cleaned-up and deloused. Somehow we cleaned our tents of the snow and huddled, like sheep, for warmth, stood all night long on our feet. In the morning one of our tent-mates was dead.

The next day they led us to the showers. We had to stand for 5 hours outside and then were told to return to our tents. The shower was supposedly occupied by soldiers. Only eight days later we got through our "sanitation process" and then were allowed to occupy different tents with bunks and little stoves in them. We

were given 14 days of "rest" before being sent to work. Then they split us up into brigades. All prisoners who were specialists — carpenters, blacksmiths, electricians, etc. — were given jobs in the industry. The rest were sent to the woods as lumberjacks and some to dig canals. I found myself among the canal-diggers.

My work was very hard. The earth was frozen 2 meters deep and would yield neither to the pick nor the shovel (we had nothing else to work with.) The daily "assignments," however, were very high as usual. If a man did not fulfill his assignment, he would be classed as a "saboteur" of the creative plan. The food given to those "saboteurs" was so poor that invariably two weeks later the "culprits" would find themselves in the lowest category—the dying. Once in that category, there was no chance for survival.

The mass-grave was close to the camp and corpses lay there exposed to our glances for no one would bother to bury them. The camp "undertakers" themselves were dying men. Every morning they would be put in front of a sleigh which they pulled across the camp. In front of each tent these would lie, in neat rows, the dead and the dying. The "undertakers" then would stop at each row, remove all clothing from the dead, throw the corpse into the sleigh and then slowly move up to the woods where the mass-grave was situated.

As the corpses accumulated, the sleigh would grow heavy and sink into the snow. Corpses rolled off and fell from the sleigh. The "undertakers" cursing and sighing would put them back, breaking arms and legs of the stiff, frozen corpses in order to conserve space on the sleigh. Reaching the grave, the "undertakers" put the corpses in neat rows, one upon the other on the ones from the previous morning (the official order was—"economize on grave-space") and then returned to pick up some more. They used to bury on an average 60-70 prisoners a day. As soon as one mass-grave would be full, they would cover it with a thin layer of snow and dig a new one.

The sick were strictly forbidden to stay in the tents during the night. They lay either on the snow at the entrance of the tents or (if they had enough strength to crawl there) in the "hospital," that is, in an unheated tent, isolated from the rest.

Altogether, in that camp, everything was done in such a manner as to make our lives unbearable.

The brigades used to return from work at various hours of the day, but the prisoners had to wait in front of the gates before all workers returned. Only then were they let in. Thus it sometimes happened that we would be back from work at five in the afternoon, but had to wait in the cold till 7-8 in the evening, waiting for the rest of the prisoners to return. While waiting we had

to stand straight. Even the most hardened men would weep like children during those hours. Supper too, was received en masse. To pass it out to 8000 men took 3 and sometimes 4 hours. All that time we stood in line in the freezing weather. Very often it would be midnight before we reached our tents, and at dawn we had to get up again.

In addition to all that, we suffered from the shameless cruelty of the administration.

Nowhere did I encounter such inhuman treatment as in that camp.

For the slightest fault, for a simple question, we were beaten with revolvers, rifle butts, clubs and anything else the guards could lay their hands on. The guards in that camp had a favorite method: to beat the prisoners' necks with a stick. Usually one hit was sufficient to kill the victim.

Soon after my arrival in that camp, my best friend died. That morning when they took him, frozen stiff to be buried, I was swallowing tears while smashing the frozen earth with my pick.

With that loss, something within me seemed to snap in two and life all of a sudden became unbearable. The hunger, the cold, the beatings, the curses of the guards — all that became some horrible, unspeakable nightmare. This nightmare continued for about 4½ months. By the middle of the summer, the original number of Latvian prisoners (5000) had diminished to 250. Unshaved, thin, covered with lice-filled rags, we bore a greater resemblance to animals than to human beings. During those 4½ months, we didn't have a bath once and we never changed our underwear. If there is Hell, then I can honestly say that I have seen it.

But then, sometime in June, a rumor began to spread across the camp. It was that someone at the "top" perhaps even in Moscow, had heard of our plight and that our administration was going to get hell. We were expecting some sort of a "Commission." The rumors seemed to have a foundation. On the 19th of June, an order was issued, releasing all prisoners from solitary confinement and the food was becoming somewhat better. And then—a great surprise, some sort of a "commission," straight from Moscow, appeared in the camp. Holding our breath we expected further developments. But a week passed, two, and no change was evident. Our old administration remained. And then something happened; something which none of us had expected.

One nice morning, we were all lined up in the middle of the camp and we saw the "chief" of the commission facing us. He announced that he would speak to us on orders from "Moscow itself." The essence of his speech was as follows:

"During your stay in the camps you must have noticed that the party and the Soviet government did not try to punish you for your crimes as is customary in the Capitalist countries. Everything was done to reform you. In the USSR, even the most hardened enemy of the "Socialist State" is given a chance to repent and to become a citizen once more if he shows by deeds that he is worthy of becoming one. This chance is being offered to you now. Everybody knows that the USSR is fighting a big war with Germany whose country is trying to make the whole world its colony — (including, of course, Latvia.) It is your duty to help the Soviet nation in its struggle. Each an every one of you who is willing to cleanse yourselves with blood of your crimes (what "crime"—none of us knew) can count for a full pardon after the victory over the enemy."

Then the official asked if any of us wished to volunteer for the Red Army. The whole line, 200 prisoners, stepped forward.

From that moment onward, events began to happen with unbelievable rapidity. The very next day, the sick were separated from the healthy and—wonders—the sick were medically treated. Then our hair was cut; we were allowed to take showers, and a quartermaster issued underwear and a uniform to each prisoner—the political prisoners received black uniforms, the murders received green ones. The very same day, our rations were increased threefold. On the 1st of August, we received another medical check-up. Everyone was told to sign a document stating that the prisoner had volunteered on his own good will. Afterwards, the head of the commission smiled, shook our hands, and congratulated us on our new way of life. We, too, smiled and everyone of us thought, "Damn you, how I would like to meet you on the battle line!"

FOR YOUR

Kitten Collection



Soft cashmere-treated Lambswool... full-fashioned... hand-finished... shrink-proof... moth-proof. \$6.95, \$7.95, \$8.95. Jewelled and others higher. At good shops everywhere.