

GAZETTE in the Red

Student Government History # 38

The 1926-27 Students' Council chose its executive on March 16, 1926. As was the custom most of the members had participated in student affairs for several years, including the new President, Fred W. McInnes. Avis Marshall remained on the executive committee, although she was no longer Vice-President. J. Gerald Godsoe retained the position of Secretary-Treasurer.

The first business that faced the Council in October was an unexpectedly high loss on the previous year's GAZETTE. It was a \$100.00 debt that had not been looked for. Council immediately invited the former Business Manager to meet with them for a debate on the issue. The unfavourable financial situation caused a long discussion on whether the Council dance should be held that fall, in view of its expense. A motion that the "dance be held as usual" was defeated, but then the Council agreed that "the usual dance be held". This was interpreted to mean that less money would be spent, with some frills eliminated.

The Council decided that it would not attempt to force cutbacks in expenditure. It then agreed to a suggestion of University President Stanley MacKenzie that there be an informal reception for the students at which he and the presidents of the student societies would speak. It was the first time that the idea was put forward.

Fred McInnes presented his proposal for a "Committee of Nine". It would have three students, three Senate representatives and three alumni. The committee would attempt to settle the usual disputes that arose between the Council and the Senate. It would tackle at once the existing problems and then act only upon request. This proposal was approved. Finally, the Council gave its President the power to select and appoint committees that dealt with Council administration.

It was at the informal reception for students,

held in the temporary gym, that Stanley MacKenzie announced that formation of the committee of nine. He felt that it would deal primarily with competitive activities (mainly sports and debating). The GAZETTE welcomed the committee, saying that it would improve communications and make the students feel more a part of the university. It felt that student participation at Dalhousie would be increased, and that students would gradually lose their servile and fearful attitude towards the authorities.

On October 19 the Council returned to the newspaper's losses. It received a full explanation from the former Business Manager, Mr. MacKenzie. The loss had been completely on the Graduation Number, and its organization and financing were reviewed in detail. The Council declared that it was satisfied and agreed that it would pay the bills that were outstanding.

Professor Murray sent his first list of discipline complaints, and he found more than smoking to be a problem. The other concern was "noticeable lack of concern" on the part of culprits. The Council still levied \$1.00 fines, however. The Girls Student Christian Association asked approval for their Theatre Night, and stressed that although it was an attempt to finance their activities it was not a precedent that the Council no longer do the financing. Council approved the Theatre Night scheme.

Near the end of October the GAZETTE looked to the student activities of past years, somewhat as this series does on a weekly basis. It reprinted a set of minutes that had been prepared by Stanley MacKenzie in November 1924. The university's President had been the Secretary of the Amateur Athletic Club. The minutes also described a football game and the fighting that accompanied it.

The Students' Council held an emergency meeting on November 1, 1926 to discuss the

Rugby team's plans for a trip to Charlottetown. The President and the Finance Committee reported that the trip was not feasible, and the Council appeared to agree. However, the only motion passed was a vague one limiting the team expenses to \$450, apparently regardless of revenue levels.

Also in November the newspaper began to press an issue that had been bubbling for a few years. This was the fact that the library was not open for much of the time when it was convenient for students to study. It closed at supper time, was not open on Sundays and only open Saturday mornings. Another concern was that the stacks were not open to the users. Students had to ask a librarian to get books from the stacks.

A few years ago the open stacks issue tore apart the University of Toronto. However, at Dalhousie of 1926 it was handled quickly after response to the newspaper attack indicated overwhelming student support for longer hours. Late in November it was announced that the Board of Governors had agreed that only an experimental basis the library would be open until 10:00 p.m. on weekdays. The GAZETTE expressed its thanks, and hoped that it had not been impolite in the manner of presenting the issue.

Over the Christmas holidays the first national conference of student leaders was held at McGill. It considered the formation of a national union of students, and agreed that if ten student governments were willing to join, the organization would exist. A constitution and structure were prepared by the thirteen delegations present.

To the Council Fred McInnes had to explain why he did not attend the conference, as had been arranged in the spring. He said that he did not know the students' popular sentiment on a national organization, and that the Students' Council could not afford the cost of sending him. He said that if a national union was organized Dalhousie would join after debating the question at the local level.

Indians "skunked"

LONDON (CUP) - Claims Commissioner, Dr. Lloyd Barber. Barber, also the are an "integral part of their lives," said Indian Claims Commission, Dr. Lloyd Barber. Barber, also the vice-president at the University of Saskatchewan, was

making a stopover in London, after having met with the Band Council of Iroquois of Six Nations in Brantford earlier last week.

Barber, told students and faculty members at the University of Western Ontario that the Canadian Indian only wants what was his to begin with, according to certain treaties.

The commissioner said there were three classes of Indian claims which had to be resolved: Specific individual land claims, relating to use and disposition of Indian lands and claims; claims or rights conveyed to the Indians by treaty or special status of the British North American Act, and whether or not these rights have been adhered to; aboriginal land claims which were not ceded through war and recognition of the right of the individual occupant.

Barber said Indians are most concerned with their aboriginal land claims. He said you couldn't go up to an Indian and tell him to stop hunting and fishing, because treaties written years before made it clear Indians had claim to the land. He also noted Indians were dependent on hunting and fishing, for their livelihood, and if you cut these things from them they would "likely hunt you down."

"They want economic viability and want it as a right and not as a handout, because, it was the Indian's land to begin with," he said.

He said integrated schooling in Saskatchewan has

been undermined by assimilation.

"The Indians want to control their own education because the white man's educational system has failed to show Indians the cunning of the white man."

"Canadian Indians don't want to be dependent - they don't want to sit around reserves and live off hand-outs - what they do want is real control of their resource and they want economic self-sufficiency, he said.

"The Indians want total power, not token power," he said. "They want to handle their own problems."

The commissioner said settlement of claims must be completed fully and legally as set out by the treaties and money won't alleviate the grievances of the Indians.

"Money doesn't necessarily get at the sense of the grievance. I know Indian bands that own oil wells and still have social problems."

Barber's commission came into being in 1969 after the rejection of a White Paper on Indian problems on land claims. His commission was appointed to investigate Indian problems and recommend the kind of "machinery" that would solve them. However, he said, since the creation of the commission, the Indians have rejected him.

"They've seen me as an agent of the devil," he said. "Part of that rejection was because I had no right to investigate aboriginal rights."

Barber said in his five years as commissioner he had seen the plight of the Indians in different extremes.

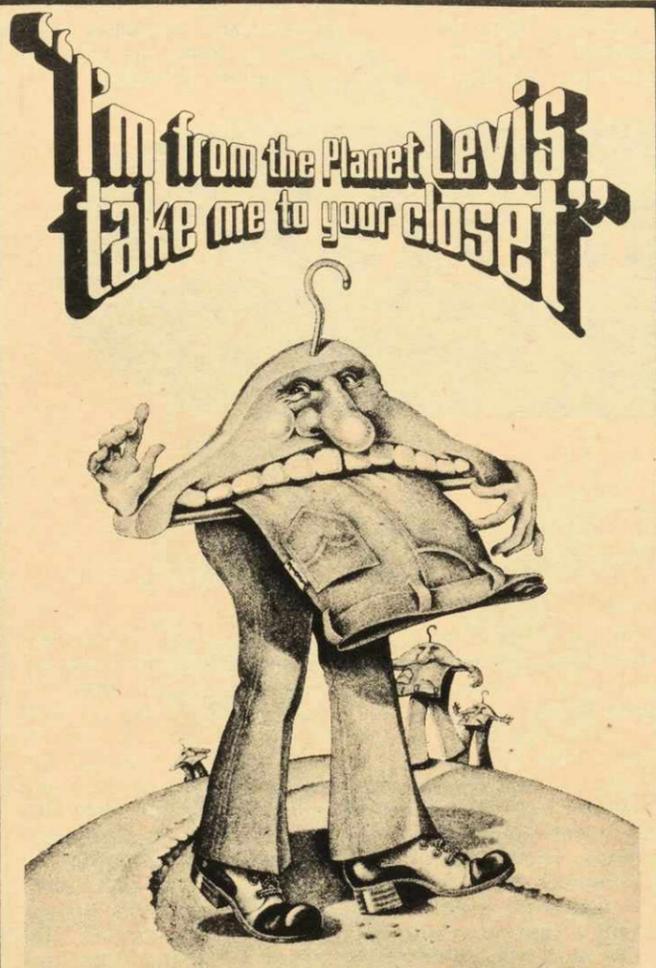
"The circumstances of Indian people vary from one

province to another from economic independence to total abject poverty," he said.

He said many of our government institutions are having difficulty dealing with these claims.

Barber said one of the reasons the Indians are having problems with their claims is the status of treaties. Treaties are not regarded as lawful according to lawyers.

One faculty member of the audience suggested if the Indian people wait for the courts to solve their grievances they will be "skunked badly."



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