

Editorial Comment

Jan. 25, 1916

The Western University Battalion.

When the Minister of Militia has given his consent and approval to the proposals of the four Western Universities, arrangements will immediately be made for the establishment of an infantry battalion recruited from students in the Universities of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Alberta. The intention is to have the officers above the rank of captain chosen from among men who have seen service at the front. Students, graduates and friends will be eligible for enlistment.

The plan is a splendid one and sure of the support of the students. Ever since we began to recruit men to re-enforce the Princess Patricias, there has been a general feeling that it is a pity for us to be sending away our finest men to fill up companies which are to a great extent credited to McGill. Let us hasten to add that these men have always been admirably treated and the companies sent over have been officially called Universities Companies, implying that students from all over Canada are in the ranks. But the new plan will have all the advantages of the other along with several which are peculiar to it. First of all the men will be among congenial companions. This factor has appealed to all those who joined the Princess Pats. They will also pass through a comparatively short period of training owing to the fact that most of them will have had previous drilling of one kind or another. For a man who wishes to spend as little time as possible on the monotonous grind of drill - and the average student feels this way about it - nothing could be more satisfactory. And lastly there will be the advantage of having it known throughout Canada that the four Western Provincial Universities have realized their duty so far as to undertake to recruit and maintain one thousand men at the front. What a chance there is to take part in the greatest game on earth on the side of the winning team.

Editorial Notes.

On another page will be found a statement by one of the law students, called forth by editorial comment in the issue of January 18th.

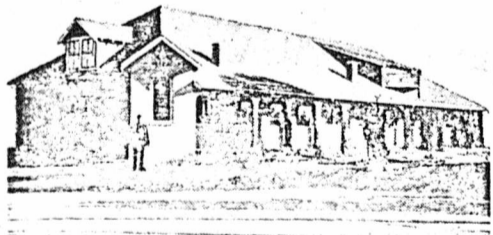
In those short editorials, the Gateway thinks, may be found the expression of an opinion which is widely held among the students of the University. The attitude has been taken after full consideration of the doings of the law students during the past two or three years.

But we wish to state frankly that we have been mistaken. We are sincerely glad to hear that the public actions of the law-students, - or rather, the lack of any action with regard to us, - do not express their own feelings and that there is growing up a real desire for closer relations with ourselves. And further we wish to thank the writer for helping to clear up a misunderstanding of rather long existence.

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LIMITED CREDIT TO APPROVED ACCOUNTS

B. F. Galbraith H. V. Kerr

Oct. 16, 1959

Morality in Politics

Mr. Edmund Leger, who contested Wednesday's aldermanic elections as a "reform" candidate, is the man whose suspicion launched the Porter investigation into Edmonton's civic affairs. That investigation unearthed facts which prompted legal action on the part of the city, and resignation on the part of former Mayor William Hawrelak.

Mr. Leger has received much national publicity for his part in the great witch-fund. In the most recent parcel of that publicity, he has vocalized an attitude which is unfortunately typical of many Canadians.

Maclean quotes Mr. Leger as feeling "sorry for Hawrelak now." The content of the article indicates that this is not Christian compassion for a repentant public figure, who wishes that he had no dirty linen. Rather does it suggest that Mr. Leger is sorry that the dirty linen had to be strung on a public line; that he feels a little guilty about the discomfort and the displacement caused ex-Mayor Hawrelak.

That is what is wrong with civic politics in Alberta's two largest cities. That is what is wrong with politics on most levels today. Too many people, voting and apparently responsible people, feel sorry for a public culprit caught. They regret, not so much that transgression has occurred, as that punishment must be meted out.

Voters have too low an estimation of the responsibilities and duties of public office. If Edmontonians can get administration which appears efficient, if Calgarians can get administrators whose intentions seem good, they will be content. They will pay no attention to public morality until an editor without topic discovers 40 bags of "borrowed" cement, or until a motel operator feels competition creeping close.

Then they will complain, purge, and feel sorry. Democracy rests on an alert and interested public. Certainly, the public is not alert if a mayor can pull shady land deal after shady land deal. Certainly it is not interested in government which earns the adjunct "good", if it even considers the repeated candidacy of a public official who "borrows" cement, and accepts "gifts."

For the land deals of William Hawrelak, for the indiscretions of Don Mackay, neither these men nor all their brothers-in-law nor tempters can be held solely to blame. Most of the fault lies with the common citizens who are too ready to turn the other cheek, and too unready to demand from occupants of public office an unconditional devotion to honesty and duty.

Education for Sale

A University degree no longer carries the value and respect it once had. Today only the abbreviations BA, BSc, and so on are important. It no longer matters what the student has studied, because only the parchment draws attention.

At one time the University was a seat of wisdom, students competed for the honor and privilege of hearing one or another scholar's lectures. This is not to say that there are no longer scholars, nor that the University is no longer a seat of wisdom. But with increasing frequency do individuals enroll for the sheepskin, not for the course content.

This is the natural outcome of today's materialistic set of values. The main preoccupation of our Society is with financial success, goals, and progress. The American youth is teethered on the value of the dollar, and high school status is enhanced through the ownership of an automobile, or a hockey scholarship.

Today a University graduate's minimum wage is set at about \$4,500. Our University education has already acquired a price, and has already been translated in terms of financial status.

In this lies the danger. We are coming precipitously close to regarding our degree as a badge, an extra step up the social scale. With it we hope to enter that social stratum as yet out of reach, or with it we conform to that social sphere where a University degree is a must.

But we are forgetting that education is the mainstay of the culture, that through it we can further the values of our Society; and strengthen the bonds with others, that only out of education can come understanding and tolerance for other values and beliefs.

This is the service that education must perform. If we allow the degree to become a status aid, if we choose the lightest courses allowable within the degree requirements, we then enter a world of intellectual sterility. We will create for ourselves and for the generations to come - if they come - a world where education only supplies the means to financial gain, and no longer helps the individual in appreciating the feelings and emotions of his fellows.

Our University education should give us the material on which to build a richer existence. It should inspire us to constructive curiosity and consideration for our immediate surroundings as well as for other cultures. It should never be up for barter.

by Joe Clark

Letter

Jan. 12th, 1926.

Editor, The Gateway:

Dear Sir, - The advent of the senior gowns has made its appearance at last. The long looked forward to moment has arrived. Surely this is worthy of a little comment.

The gowns have served their purpose, namely, to distinguish the senior from the pleb; some even seem to appear a little more dignified, while others, especially those taking junior subjects, appear a little too self-conscious. But why stop at the seniors?

Why not carry the idea on a little farther to include the other three classes? I do not mean - for a moment that freshmen, for instance, should wear gowns, but at least some other distinction than a hair cut. This system is in vogue in other universities, University of California being one I know for a fact has adopted this system. It might be possible, and even advantageous, in as small a university as this. Blazers like McGill and grey or cream cords like California might serve as distinctions; however, it would be up to each class to choose their own. Even the freshmen might be allowed some distinctions if the Sophs permit.

I should greatly like to hear what the opinions of others are on this subject, hoping even the newly-elevated seniors might deign to voice a thought.

Thanking you in anticipation of using The Gateway as a medium - I remain, tout à vous,

"THE GOWN."

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graduating. For the grands it was felt that the loss of the Campus "A" cards would work no hardship.

Following is the report of the Students' Council:

This matter has been removed from the hands of the police because the students feel that they are sufficiently mature to handle their own affairs.

A complaint has been received from the President of the Students' Union alleging that there was a parade last Thursday, March 15th, 1951, during which the Nurse's Residence and Pembina were forcefully entered. A window was broken in the Nurse's Residence, and the Night Supervisor was treated in a manner which caused her severe mental anguish.

The parade proceeded to Pembina, where the window was forced and a girl's room was entered. The north-east door was opened and ten students made their way to the main hall and four or five reached the second floor.

As a result of this, a screen was torn from the windows and there was a quantity of blood found in the dining room. The Night Supervisor of the Nurse's Residence called the police, who arrived and detained six of the paraders until the following morning.

As a result of information received from the six who were detained, the Disciplinary Committee was summoned to consider a suitable punishment.

From the evidence it appears that there were eighteen men on the parade. By their own admission two entered the Nurse's Residence. However, information received from the Night Supervisor indicates that there were eight to ten boys. By their own admission, ten were in Pembina.

The Committee feels that there were about thirty to forty men in the parade, and they have not all been identified, nor have they come forward of their own volition. The Committee proceeded to hear the evidence and adjourned for consideration and sentence.