

The Brunswickan

THE WEEKLY NEWS AND LITERARY JOURNAL OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK
Est. 1880

Member, Canadian University Press

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President's Message



DR. N. A. M. MacKENZIE

The University of New Brunswick has the distinction of being one of the oldest university corporations in Canada, and it is most appropriate that we should pay tribute to the men and women who since 1785 have done so much to make this institution famous.

It is impossible to list all of them but special mention should be paid to the Loyalists who in 1785 took the first steps which resulted in our establishment; to Thomas Carleton and Sir Howard Douglas, Governors of that period, who did so much for us; to the government and public spirited citizens, and to our own alumni and alumnae to whom we owe a great deal. Special mention should also be made of Lord Beaverbrook to whom we are most grateful for his continuing generosity in the form of scholarships, the Residence and Gymnasium.

Founder's Day was established appropriately enough, at the request of some of our students, who are now on active service overseas, and I hope that succeeding generations of students will continue to keep alive the memory of our founders and benefactors, and to consider Founder's Day an event in which they have a very special interest, and one which they will make their own.

NORMAN MacKENZIE

Choral Club

Another interesting feature on tonight's program will be the appearance, for the first time, of the Ladies Choral Club, made up of U.N.B. coeds.

For several years there has been a growing desire among the coeds to form such a club, and accordingly this year they took the decisive step, and with Dr. de Merten as their director have been working hard in an effort to equal, if not surpass, the now renowned Men's Glee Club.

The girls feel that tonight's audience should not be too critical, as they do not profess to have reached perfection yet, or to have acquired the skill of the more experienced Glee Club.

Founder's Day

Tonight for the third time since the institution of a Founder's Day in 1942, undergraduates and graduates, of the University of New Brunswick, together with other distinguished visitors will be paying tribute to the memory of the founders of this university.

It is only right that one day in every university year should be set aside as a day in which we can take time to reflect over that period of years through which, step by step, our university grew not only in size but in importance, till now it has a name honoured not only in the Maritimes but also in the Dominion. It is also right that we pause once a year and pay tribute to our graduates and benefactors for it is through their untiring efforts that we have today a well known and increasingly influential university.

With these things in mind the university authorities have seen fit to appoint a special Founder's Day Committee, who each year have arranged a program suitable for the occasion. This committee has, in our first three observances, brought to us several distinguished speakers who if not directly connected with our university, have taken a keen interest in us as we move along the road of years.

We are indeed fortunate this year in having as our special speaker Dr. Brebner, who as Associate Professor of History at Columbia University, has a brilliant record.

We should also keep in mind those graduates and ex students, who have given their lives during this present world war. Some of them we knew, others were before our time. However they had one thing in common, and that was that while here they, in their individual ways contributed to our university life and left their mark within the various organizations in which they were members. Their university and their country will remember them.

Sir C. G. D. Roberts Contributed Much To Us

Founder's Day ordinarily associates itself in the mind with dates, charters, constitutions and the men who draft them. Through such the University of New Brunswick came into being in the sense that land was granted, a building reared, a faculty and a student body assembled. But the Founders of the spirit of the University belong to no particular year, are not associated with charters. Many of them are unknown and must remain so; but with the passing of time a few figures tend to reveal themselves as creators of a unique spiritual quality which, more than the land of the buildings or even the sum of its graduates, gives the University a distinction which has no proportion to its age or size.

Of these Founders of the spirit, one of the most outstanding is Sir Charles G. D. Roberts. His death in the autumn of 1943 brought to a close a long career, during which Roberts maintained, often in the face of great difficulties, an unswerving allegiance to the genius which first bore fruit more than sixty years ago when he was an undergraduate member of this University. He was the first among Canadians to point the way to the creation of a great national literature; and his influence upon his fellow-students at U.N.B., and upon many of those who came after him, has been profound. But it is not only here, or in the Maritimes at large, that his genius has been a great inspirational force. In unforgettable words Archibald Lampman has described the effect which a reading of Roberts' earliest volume of verse, "Orion", had upon him, when he was a student at Trinity College, Toronto:

I sat up most of the night reading and re-reading "Orion" in a state of the wildest excitement and when I went to bed I could not sleep. It seemed to me a wonderful thing that such work could be done by a Canadian, by a young man, one of ourselves. It was like a voice from some new paradise of art, calling to us to be up and doing. A little after sunrise I got up and went out into the college grounds... Everything was transfigured for me beyond description, bathed in an old world radiance of beauty, the magic of the lines was sounding in my ears, those divine verses as they seemed to me, with their Tennyson-like richness and strange earth-loving Greek flavour. I have never forgotten that morning, and its influence has always remained with me.

Little more need be said to indicate the extent of the persuasive power of Roberts' genius. It is sufficient to add that he is not likely to become a merely historical figure; and that the influence which first began its work in this University more than half a century ago,