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## College Topics

A College Newspaper, published weekly in the interests of University and College Students of Toronto.

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TORONTO, DECEMBER 13TH, 1898.

## Heard in the Halls.

This will be the last issue of COLLEGE TOPICS for this term.

Miss Anderson, sister of Miss N. E. Anderson, '99, visited Varsity last week.

McPherson's, 228 Yonge Street, is where students get stylish footwear at student prices.

If you have not a dress suit for the dinner, you can rent one from Fountain, 30 Adelaide West, at a reasonable price.

The Y. W. C. A. and the Y. M. C. A. are holding a combined meeting next Thursday afternoon at 5 o'clock.

The auction sale of this year's magazines in the reading-room will take place in Students' Union Wednesday afternoon.

The members of Class '99, Varsity, met last Friday evening to pass resolutions on the death of W. A. Docker, who died at his home last week.

The annual meeting of the University of Toronto Baseball Club was held last Wednesday afternoon. A full report of the meeting and an outline of next Spring's prospects will be published in our next issue.

A meeting will be held in Students' Union Thursday afternoon, at 4 o'clock, for the purpose of forming a Students' Dramatic Club. All students of the affiliated colleges of the University are invited to be present.

The Varsity Hockey Club have arranged for the construction of two rinks on the University grounds. One of these will be for the exclusive use of the hockeyists. Both of the rinks will be kept in first-class condition, and should secure the undivided patronage of all undergraduates.

The Secretary of the Chess Club, F. E. Brown, '00, is desirous of receiving the names of any chess players who are enrolled at any of the affiliated Colleges, in order that their support may be obtained in the Varsity vs. Y.M.C.A., and University of Toronto vs. Athenæum, Tournaments.

The youngest member of the University Athletic Association is a youth of the tender age of thirteen. He hails from Harbord, and has paid his fee like a little man. Now that Yusuf, the terrible Turk, is out of business, this budding Hercules will undoubtedly be heard of in future years as a man of might.

McGill University has just added another to the many fine buildings which adorn her campus, in the new chemical and mining building, which is to be opened on the 20th inst. It is expected that the Earl of Minto will perform the opening ceremonies, and that he, together with Lord Herschell and Sir Wilfrid Laurier will be the recipients of honorary degrees from the University.

Mrs. Knight, the returned missionary from the district of An Hwei, China, addressed the Y. W. C. A. on Wednesday last. She clearly and forcibly represented the great need of more missionaries—even though short-sighted people continually say of the mission work, "Why this waste?" Mrs. Knight also gave many interesting illustrations of discouraging difficulties and encouraging successes during her own work in China.

Although some clever and original as well as some euphonious yells have been handed in, not verbally, to the committee which has charge of the competition for the best yell which will indeed fill the "bill" and suit the fastidious taste of the Medical undergraduates of Toronto University, it has been decided to postpone the award until after Christmas. It is understood that Mr. E. A. Young has taken a winning chance. He has, it is alleged, acted upon a suggestion contained in one of the venerable jokes of Puck's Library, and has, *vi et armis* taken in captivity several Thomas cats, from the twisting of whose caudal appendages he has in process of time succeeded in securing a compositio yelli.

The Women's Literary Society held its closing meeting for the term in the Stu-

dents' Union on Saturday evening. The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and a program followed. A violin solo from Miss G. Evans was very much appreciated, as also a vocal solo by Miss T. Robinson. Miss Cockburn read a mirth-provoking selection, very aptly chosen, from Josiah Allan's Wife. A half hour was devoted to minute speeches by the girls, the limited time making the whole affair ludicrous and a source of much fun. The speakers were the Misses Cleary, McDonald, Lucas, Lawson, Burgess, Patterson (who made some very pungent remarks), McConnell, Morrison, Darling and others. The meeting closed with "God Save the Queen."

On the invitation of Prof. Hutton, six members of the Chess Club met six members of the Faculty in a friendly match at his present place of residence, Bloor St. East, on Monday evening last. The evening was a most enjoyable one, not only on account of the excellent play that was afforded on all hands, but also on account of the pleasant entertainment of the genial Professor. The games resulted as follows:—Prof. Mavor, 0; Prof. Hutton, 0; Prof. Wrong, 1; Mr. Keys, 1; Dr. Needler, 1; Mr. Milner, 1; N. S. Shensstone, 1; R. G. Hunter, 2; Banwell, 1; F. E. Brown, 1; S. F. Shensstone, 1; A. W. Keith, 1. Although the score resulted 8 to 3 in favor of the Undergraduates, the powers of the players en masse were not in that proportion. Some of the members of the Faculty were very considerably handicapped by a lack of practice, a most essential thing for good chess playing.

The annual meeting of the Rugby Football Club was held last Friday afternoon in the Students' Union. A large number of enthusiastic supporters and players were present. The President, R. S. Waldie, was in the chair. The first item which came before the notice of the meeting was the annual report, which was presented by the secretary-treasurer, Mr. W. H. Alexander. A review of the season showed the marked success of the Varsity teams in winning the Senior and the Intermediate championships in Intercollegiate Series and in playing in the finals for the Junior Championship of the O. R. F. U. The finances of the club showed a substantial surplus, while the season generally had been one of interest and progress. Under the head of new business Mr. V. Henderson advocated the formation of a Rugby league for preparatory school championships, to include the city Collegiate Institutes and Upper Canada College II. Mr. Henderson spoke in favor of the donation of a trophy for competition among these teams. This league would be under the control of the Executive of the University Rugby Club, and would be of inestimable value in developing material for the Varsity teams. On motion of Messrs. Henderson and Gooderham it was determined to undertake the proposed scheme. Instructions to the delegates to the different Unions were then discussed and the following were appointed: C.I.R.F.U.—Messrs. J. Meredith and Thrift Burnside; O.R.F.U.—Messrs. Jack Meredith and V. Henderson. Mr. Jack Inkster followed with a glowing eulogy on the valuable services rendered by Sergeant Williams to the club, and on motion of Messrs. Meredith and Brown it was determined to make a material acknowledgment of the same. It was decided that changes in the playing rules be discussed at a meeting of the Senior and Intermediate teams. The election of officers, which next occupied the attention of the meeting, resulted as follows:—Honorary President, Dr. McCurdy; Honorary Vice-president, W. J. Loudon, B.A.; President A. J. MacKenzie, B.A., L.L.B.; Vice-president, G. W. Ross; Secretary-treasurer, J. J. Gibson. The following were the representatives:—Fourth year, R. A. Armstrong; third year E. P. Brown; second year, A. W. MacKenzie; third and fourth year Meds, N. H. Montzambert; first and second year Meds, B. C. Anslay; S. P. S., J. Davidson; Dental College, A. H. Mason; Knox, M. MacArthur; St. Michael's, A. J. Staley.

### ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE

McRae's Repertoires include the following:—Old Man Simmons, A Lobster in a Lobster Pot, Had an Old Team called Peddler and Joe, A Game with a Bee on the Grass, My Aunt Sally, Get a New Master and Be a New Man. These make up a splendid selection, and when sung well deserve applause; but owing to McRae's unharrowed vocal field, they very often incite Mr. Donovan, his neighbor across the way, to bark.

Mulligan recently indulged in one of his periodical sleeps, holding it down for seventeen hours.

Peter Campbell has been well noted of late.

The College has procured the services of "Old Cap"—the sometime manager of the great Moss Park Rink—to take care of their Skating Rink this year.

This year's hockey team will not, as in former years, be handicapped on account of practice, and we may predict better results from them than last year.

Pupil, dolefully—Will you excuse me from Xmas exams? Dir.—Could not think of it.

F. Anderson is confined to the Hospital (St. Michael's) owing to a broken leg, received while practising Rugby.

Boys, don't fail to purchase the Christmas number of the Catholic Almanac. Apply to the Editor, 510 Queen street west.

## KNOX ORATORS DEFEAT VICTORIA

The Last Intercollege Debate of the Term an Interesting One

### CONDITION OF THE MASSES

The Employers are Responsible for the Present State of Affairs

The assembly of people which filled the Chapel of Victoria University last Friday evening was a sufficient guarantee that the Inter-collegiate debates are suffering no diminution of interest. The Chapel was filled to the doors and standing room was available only in the corridor. Both Knox and Victoria were fairly represented and occupied the back seats of the hall. Prof. Badgley, the chairman, opened the meeting by calling for a quartette by members of the Glee Club. This number called forth marked evidences of satisfaction and was most successfully executed. The second number contained the chief item upon the program. This was, of course, the debate, the proposition of which was: "Resolved, That the present condition of the industrial classes is due more to the employer than to the employee."

The affirmative was upheld by Messrs. J. W. Davidson and R. H. Bell of Victoria, while Messrs. W. J. Knox and Hugh Munroe of Knox College sought to prove that the position of the affirmative was untenable. Mr. Davidson made it the object of his remarks to show that the present condition of the industrial classes was a very happy and prosperous one, and that the credit for all this was due to the working man himself. He showed that most of the crying evils which had oppressed the working man in times past were considerably modified at the present day. Crime and pauperism had decreased. In particular, the financial position of the laboring people had materially improved. Bank deposits showed a six-fold increase, showing the wide diffusion of wealth among the industrial classes. Moreover labor was not without protection. Trades unions were wealthy and well organized, so that employers were deterred from resorting to oppressive measures through a knowledge of what labor could do. Free trade which had given such a stimulus to industry was traceable to the employee, while increased security of life had been secured as a result of the efforts of working men. The general diffusion of education should be accredited to the industrial classes, which have demanded and obtained institutes, public libraries and schools. Reforms have been effected in the hours of women and minors, while the factory inspectors have secured great improvements in the way of ventilation, fire escapes and establishing the liability of the employer. Employees have opposed in every case the abridgment of their rights, and in the various struggles the victory has been with them. At the demand of the Knights of Labor, a Department of Labor had been formed for the protection of the interests of labor and investigation into abuses. In conclusion Mr. Davidson thought that the path of the industrial classes had been in the line of uninterrupted progress for the past hundred years.

Mr. Knox, for the negative, before opening the argument for the Knoxians made a few preliminary criticisms on the positions advanced by the previous speaker. He claimed that the leader of the affirmative had not traced to specific causes the cases he had quoted, and that when this had been done the tracing had not been very logical. Crime and pauperism were not on the decrease. In regard to the claim that labor had been instrumental in introducing free trade, he thought that the Reform Bill showed conclusively that labor in such movements always went hand-in-hand with capital, and that the upper hand was that of capital. This had been demonstrated by the Chartist rising. The aim of Mr. Knox's argument was to show that power has always been and is in the hands of the employers; and that the present condition, good or bad, of the industrial classes is due in a greater degree to them. Beginning with the industrial revolution of 1750 he pointed out that the inventions of Watt, Arkwright and others had revolutionized industry, and had resulted in the factory system, of the early evils of which he gave a very graphic summary. The employer was at that time almost omnipotent. Prior to the invention of machinery the manufacturing and the disposal of commodities had been done by the one person. The head and the hands then worked in the closest possible union. The position is the same at the present time, the employer taking the place of the head, the employee of the hands. Having shown that power was and is wholly in the hands of the employers, Mr. Knox then proceeded to enumerate certain factors which have tended to confirm them in this condition.

First and foremost was the influence of Adam Smith's famous work, "The Wealth of Nations," which preached the gospel of individual liberty and free play. Under the influence of the *laissez faire* creed, the employer felt himself justified in grinding down and crushing the unfortunate employee. The Malthusian and the Fund theories also contributed materially to perpetuate the retention of power by the employer. Among the remaining factors which had contributed to the confirmation of the power of the employer, were the evolution

theory and the exercise of charity by the moneyed classes. The employee is emphatically the under dog, as is evidenced by the existence of numerous Henry George and other clubs, as well as the strong desire of the working man for the establishment of conciliation boards. It is the working man who suffers during periods of industrial depression. On these occasions, while his wages are lowered, the dividends and the salaries of superintendents remain the same. The laborer is not possessed of the power of bettering his condition. The market is glutted, and men are ready to work for anything. The capitalist on the other hand has the advantage in being able to relieve the poor. He has an additional asset in his superiority. Socially, intellectually and politically over the employee. His intellectual superiority is manifested in his capacity for combinations, while his social and political advantage is self-evident. Being the power-holding class, employers have made concessions in favor of the working classes from purely voluntary motives, which have been inspired more or less by the dissemination of the altruistic principle. The chief reforms have not come from the masses, while almost without exception it is the case that the exponents of philanthropy have arisen from the wealthy classes.

Mr. Bell, who seemed to have a reputation for sarcasm among his fellow students, now took the platform and trained the guns of his eloquence upon the unoffending audience. He endorsed his leader's position that all the prosperity which the industrial classes now enjoy is due chiefly to their own exertions. At the same time he was of the opinion that their present life, rosy as it had been represented by his leader, would be 100 per cent. better were it not for certain evils for which the working man is alone to blame. Mr. Bell then treated the house to a veritable inundation of intemperance statistics. Intemperance, judging from these figures, was indeed the head and front of their offending. Crime was all due to drink. Another charge which Mr. Bell laid at the door of the working man was that of thriftlessness. He does not work after hours and thus employ his leisure hours profitably. Drink, laziness, immorality, shiftlessness, crime and a roving disposition are responsible for all that is deplorable in the condition of the industrial classes, and for this condition they are themselves more or less to blame. Their ignorance and indifference to the Government and institutions under which they live are among the most fruitful sources of the evils to which they are subject. Another evil which the speaker sadly deplored was the premature bondage of family ties. By a classification which he quoted it was easy to see that in this particular at least Mr. Knox's claim for the intellectual superiority of the employers had a firm foundation in fact. The average rich man displays his superior wisdom in marrying at thirty, while his brother, the toiler, submits to the yoke between the age of eighteen and his majority. Female competition was included in the speaker's category. Woman is thereby not only depreciating the value of labor, but she is rendering herself incompetent to fulfil the duties of a laborer's wife. Moreover, the beating down of prices is due more or less to labor. Mr. Bell concluded with a burst of eloquence, in which he narrated some of his own experiences in regard to present condition of the industrial classes.

Hugh Munroe, whose reputation as a debater is one of high standing in College circles, followed Mr. Bell, and closed the argument for the negative. Mr. Munroe gave it as his opinion that the proposition called for an accurate description of the present condition of the industrial classes, in which respect he considered that both of the speakers of the affirmative had signally failed. He excited a hearty laugh by calling attention to the apparently contradictory remarks of the speakers of the affirmative. The first speaker, he said, had given a glowing description of the labor classes, in which they were depicted as frugal, happy, and fairly wealthy, while the second speaker had drawn a picture in which drunkenness, thriftlessness, etc., figured very prominently. Mr. Munroe thought that while the above descriptions were true of the two edges of the industrial classes, the upper and the lower, yet they could not be considered as accurate delineations of the present condition of the average working man. In regard to the claim urged that wages had risen owing to the efforts of the employee, he considered that wages depended far more upon the energy and enterprise of merchants. Mr. Munroe doubted whether wages were universally high. The German employer was enabled to compete successfully, because he kept the working man upon a bare living wage. In England the wages of

the industrial class were low, while in the United States the conditions were long hours for small pay. In regard to the power possessed by capitalists he referred to the dread expressed by economic writers of the future of the oppressed laboring classes. In Great Britain there was an association of capitalists whose objects were the adjustment of differences between the employer and the employee, the regulation of wages, and, in case of trouble, the bringing to bear of the resources of the association upon the refractory ones. In the procuring of legislation they were all-powerful. The working man had no chance against them. In the United States employers were still very powerful, and had generally come out successfully from the various strikes. Canada's industrial condition was not ideal. While the Canadian workingman was not a drunkard, not indolent, nor a pauper, yet there were many conditions of oppression traceable to the power of the employer. The most notable among these was the sweating system, of the horrors of which the speaker gave some description. Mr. Munroe did not think that trades unions had power to influence the rate of wages. He stated that only a small percentage of the laboring classes belonged to such unions, and quoted figures showing that the numbers were less as the years went by. Moreover, in Great Britain all the labor candidates but one had been defeated, while of the total number of votes polled in various constituencies not ten per cent. belonged to labor. The power of the employer is therefore absolute. Mr. Munroe then concluded with a summary review of the arguments advanced by his side in which the line of thought was clearly traced, and which contributed materially to clearer apprehension by the audience of the subject under discussion.

The referees, Principal Hoyles, Professor McKay, of McMaster, and Mr. D. R. Wilkie, were now called upon to consider the respective merits of the arguments *pro* and *con*. During the interval of their absence from the College chapel, Mr. R. Van Wyck entertained the assembly with a very fine baritone solo, which was received with great favor. Mr. C. L. McIrvine followed with a very clever reading, in which he gave evidence of a very high order of dramatic talent. The judges, who had by this time reached their decision, were now anxiously regarded by the supporters of the contending colleges. Principal Hoyles, who acted as foreman, stated that his colleagues and himself had been strongly tempted to make their escape, rather than face the supporters of the unsuccessful orators. After expressing regret that victory could not be awarded to both sides, he stated that the finding of the referees was in favor of the negative. The victorious Knoxians gave vent to their jubilant spirits in hearty cheers, in which they were courteously supported by the Victoria men. The proceedings then came to a close with the singing of the national anthem.

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