

# DALHOUSIE Gazette

CANADA'S OLDEST STUDENT PUBLICATION

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Printed by McCurdy Print, 54 Argyle St., Halifax, N. S.

Vol. LXXXI

November 2, 1948

No. 10

## WHAT PRICE LEARNING

In a recent issue of "Saturday Night" an article deals out some well-earned criticism to Canadian Universities. Discussing a book by Provost Seeley of Toronto's Trinity College the article mentions the "narrow, commercial approach to learning" so much in evidence in Canadian universities. While it blames nobody for this, the article reminds universities that it is time for an assessment.

It is quite true that this criticism touches home. Nobody who knows anything about it will deny that the Canadian Pass B. A. is hardly worth the paper it is printed on insofar as representing its holder as an educated man of letters is concerned. One continually hears how a Canadian M. A., who has gone to Oxford or Cambridge, finds himself placed in the third undergraduate year. Less and less attention is devoted in our universities to the liberal arts, and more and more to money-making. Accounting has displaced the Classics.

It is one thing to point this out; it is another to blame it on the Universities. Our institutions of learning depend much more upon public support than most people realize. A man who has made a "success" of his life due to an intricate knowledge of the hardware market might consider the study of Latin an academic waste of time. If it were suggested that education was not inextricably bound up with the making of money, many such men would think education ridiculous. The significance of philosophy escapes them entirely.

The scholarly tradition of the University is going by the board, and our graduating students are assessed on their dollar value and very little more. They are not expected to have an outlook ripened by the experience of centuries, but a capability for replacing some cog in our industrial or social machine.

Speaking in Toronto last week, Dr. Seeley stressed the necessity for broader teaching than the pure mechanics of some field. Because of comparative security from outside pressures, the University is an ideal place for the search for the Truth, Dr. Seeley stated. He went on to say that it had impartiality; the ability to discriminate between truth and falsehood, integrity in a world where everybody has an axe to grind and moral courage.

But the trouble is that these qualifications—certainly among the things a University should offer—in this country are what they have not, or have not altogether. The Universities are compelled to attend more and more to the making of money, and less and less to the development of minds. The commercialism of the curricula is the result of the outside pressure from which Universities are supposed to be immune. It is with outside pressures that the writer of the article in "Saturday Night" must quarrel.

Or must we blame the Universities for succumbing to outside pressure?

## Letters To The Editors

Dear Sir:

In Valerie Cato's article dealing with my report on the National Convention of the Progressive-Conservative Party I noted two mis-quotes which I wish to correct.

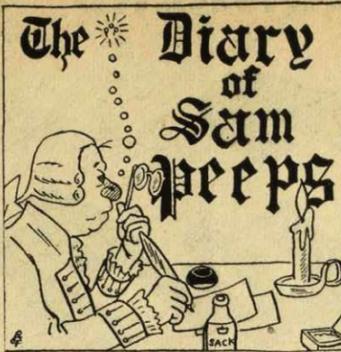
First, the comparison to "a college pep rally" was specifically limited to the spontaneous and impromptu gathering in the lobby of the Chateau Laurier after the nomination speeches. This was not a meeting; it was merely a lively and spirited get-together of the candidates, complete with sing-songs, music and yells.

Second, the Progressive Conservative Party did not establish Imperial Oil. I used the Imperial plant as an example of beneficial capital expenditures encouraged in the Maritimes after the first World War by the Conservative Government. It still remains to contribute to our prosperity. The Halifax Shipyards belong in the same category.

I would appreciate it if you would publish this in the next issue of the Gazette.

Yours sincerely,  
**A. William Cox**

Pres. Dalhousie P-C Club



**The Diary of Sam Peeps**

Saturday, Oct. 30—Up betimes and to the Forest, where a friend of mine did invite me to the conference of the Tories. They there did assemble, and vowed that they were all Progressive Tories, and therefore newer and better than the old Tories. Lord William Hen did speak at great length concerning bigger and better rallies to be held in the City. To prove that they were of good faith in being Progressive, suggestions from the back benches that beer be served were quashed.

Passing Queen's did hear great noises as of an animal in great pain. Hear later, however, that it is only a mad scotchman playing his pipes, which have alarmed the district and the scholars no little.

Did hear great reports of the celebration held by old scholars for the new at the Gym Inn. It seems that so many were stealing the refreshments that were none when the time came to drink, and all were disappointed. However, all were comforted by the speeches, which were long and rambling, and in no sense senile. All who could spoke, including President Auto.

Sunday, Oct. 31 (Lord's Day—  
To church in Queens, where, stumbling over reclining scholars around the door I did perceive many theologues, who apparently had debated against the men of Law, whereat a large free fight broke out and many had sore heads the next day. Did hear loud comment on this from dullards at Wood Hill.

At the sermon I was wroth, for that the preacher brayed only about bad habits prevalent in scholars, and ranted long on this. I home, before he finished; have no patience with such nonsense.

Did hear that the Parliament will meet. Jake Boudrop tells that politics in the Medicine section off Cheapside are become oppressive, and that Prex Hoggins seeks to control the mob by harsh methods.

Monday, Nov. 1—The week-end having been full of idiocy over Hallowe'en, up early and to the college on the Hill where things are very quiet. I did hear that the Ball at the Lady Hamilton Palace did not earn a Party of the Parliament much in party funds, but little, at which they were most disappointed and claimed that there must be some more somewhere. Ah, how money doth fly in politics.

Did read the Spectator (early edition) and did see long words on how our scholars learn naught but how they may make money. This seems most appropriate to me; what else they would do I know not. For money is hard come by. I did hear that one ingenious scholar did deposit some few shillings with a Goldsmith, and went and bought goods on the note of the Goldsmith. Then he hurried back and withdrew his money, and had both goods and money. Without education at University, how would he have thought of this?

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