

☸ COLLEGE CONVOCATIONS ☸

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY, HALIFAX.

The University had two Convocations this year, one on May 9th for the faculties of arts and science and of law, and on May 30th for the faculties of medicine and dentistry. In former years but one Convocation was held for all faculties, but the sessions of the faculties of medicine and dentistry began two or three weeks earlier than those of arts and law. This year all faculties began work together.

The speaker at the first Convocation was President T. Stannage Boyle of King's College, and at the latter, Col. Croll, who had been Chief Surgeon of No. 2 Canadian General Hospital at the front.

An interesting event at the earlier Convocation was the presentation by the Hon. R. M. MacGregor of a photographic portrait of the late Professor J. Gordon McGregor, for many years Professor of Physics at Dalhousie, who left to succeed Professor Tait at Edinburgh University.

In his address, President Mackenzie referred to the fact that this was the Centennial year of the University, it having been founded in 1818 by Lord Dalhousie, then Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia. Lord Dalhousie's enlightened conception of the idea of a free, untrammelled college was to be open to all sects of religion, to all classes that the University which he was founding should be absolutely democratic in form and in spirit, and was to be open to all sects of religion, to all classes and to all occupations. Dalhousie adopted not merely the name, but the liberal spirit of its founder and dedicated itself to the cultivation and propagation of the higher learning in absolute freedom and without thought to class or creed. The President referred with pride to the fact that the college had not proved faithless to the trust it undertook and that learning, scholarship and freedom of thought have ever been fostered and guarded by the successive generations of those who had the University's guidance in their keeping, with the result that this insistence upon high standards has conferred incalculable benefits on the province. It had been intended that this great event in the history of the University should be celebrated this year in a fitting manner, but on account of the war, when the very existence of the empire was at stake, it was felt that the commemoration should be delayed for a time.

The centennial year of Dalhousie has, however, already been commemorated in a striking and thoughtful manner by the gift from Senator and Mrs. William Dennis of \$60,000 to form a memorial to their son Eric, who lost his life at the taking of Vimy Ridge, and who, although almost yet a boy, had distinguished himself as a soldier and won the Military Cross. This gift is to found a Professorship of Government and Political Science, and Senator Dennis stated in his deed of gift that he was prompted to make this offer to the University on account of the fact that the University "has always been on the side of sound learning, liberal and progressive thought, democratic ideals, and a wholesome patriotism. . . Dalhousie and the other colleges in the Maritime Provinces have been to an important degree the inspiration to the public service and patriotism which are the proud record of our people during their testing period in our history." It is intended that the teaching from this Chair shall in the most practical way create an interest in the public life of Canada, and inculcate amongst the youth of our land the highest ideal of public service. This is the first Chair devoted especially to the Science of Government to be established in any University of Canada. By this notable benefaction, given while they yet live, Senator and Mrs. Dennis have shown an insight into educational opportunities, and a munificent generosity in meeting a special need of the time.

The President also announced a gift of \$1,000 for the Arts library from a donor who desired that his name be not made known.

Reference was also made to the fact that in a most sympathetic and generous way the Carnegie Corporation of New York had undertaken to meet the full expense of repairing the damage done to the University buildings by the great explosion on December 6, 1917.

One of the notable events of the year among the students was their raising of the magnificent sum of \$7,600.00, one-half from the students and one-half from the staff, for the overseas Y. M. C. A. Fund. This contribution was to go to the Prisoners of War section of that Fund. It is, as far as known, proportionately the greatest amount raised by any University.

Two members of the staff left to join the fighting