

# DALHOUSIE Gazette

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## STRENGTH IN UNION

At the annual convention of the National Federation of Canadian University Students, held last month at Quebec, the suggestion was put forward that NFCUS and the International Student Service of Canada should unite and combine their forces for a common effort.

This proposal has caused much comment on campus throughout the country. In order to understand the significance of such a move it is necessary to understand just what NFCUS and ISS are, and what they mean to the average student.

NFCUS, the National Federation of Canadian University Students, is an all-Canadian organization, with branches in most universities in the Dominion. Its main efforts have been to better the relations between the students of the various colleges and between French and English speaking students, as well as to help the students materially by obtaining reduced rates on trains, and student discounts.

ISS, the International Student Service, is the Canadian branch of an international organization devoted to the betterment of the students of the world. ISS sponsors an international seminar each year in a different country which is attended by delegates from all the major universities in the civilized world.

During the past few years NFCUS has sponsored a number of student exchange plans and schemes to acquaint students with other parts of Canada. An arrangement has also been made with the United States student organization for an exchange of students between U. S. and Canadian universities.

The union of these two organizations would effect an economy in operation and would also provide a united plan of action and one leadership in all matters concerning student welfare.

In most other countries of the western world, the national student movements have merged with the various branches of the ISS and the resultant group has worked in international matters much more successfully than two separate groups.

It is time Canadian organizations were brought in line with those of other nations in this respect and a union of the two student groups was effected.

# F E A

## EUROPE - 1950

A-B-C-D-E-F. I was not learning the alphabet, I was counting the decks on the S.S. Samaria. Our cabin was No. 21, E deck and though we had been warned that the ship was still an unconverted troop transport my heart sank when I saw that E deck even when the weather was fine was just above water level. What would it be like if the ocean got really rough? We were to find out.

On looking back it seems pretty grim but at the time it was fun. Twenty of us in one cabin—twenty girls — students from Toronto, Queens, McGill and Dalhousie. We had two days of perfect calm going down the St. Lawrence but then! pitching, tossing, crashing, banging. It was difficult to stay in your berth but even more difficult to stand on your feet. Menus were scanned to see "what is best to prevent seasickness". A very good question particularly when everyone had a different theory. Eventually the word "seasick" was used so much that we banned it once and for all from the conversation. By means of frequent doses of pills we managed to survive that day but then to our horror the deck steward informed us that it would undoubtedly get worse. It did! By the fifth day everyone had begun to feel the effects and by that night eleven of us had succumbed. For the next thirty hours the atmosphere was one of grim determination and since it was the general theory that fresh air was the best preventative twenty of us huddled miserably under countless blankets, coats, sweaters and scarves on the deck, amid high winds, sleet and rain. The shores of North America could not have looked more welcome to Christopher Columbus that the shores of England did to us when we finally sighted it four days later.

After the usual customs formalities we went ashore like so many mad men who had not seen land for a year. It was hard to believe that Canada was only nine days away. It seemed like an eternity. We weren't on land more than a minute however before our spirits began to rise.

Even the fact that we couldn't get a stick of gum or chocolate bar without "points" or, as we call them, "ration points", didn't bother us. We ate our first English meal and within an hour we were in busses on our way to London. There was only one thing of note about that first meal; we were introduced to three famous English puddings, apparently the only kind they know: i.e. Sago Pudding, Semolina Pudding (Cold Cream of Wheat) and stewed plums with custard. I think—that part of the recovery plan for England should include 1000 copies of the Boston Cook Book. It could be put under "Improving the Tourist Trade".

It would be impossible to try and tell everything we saw and did during our stay. Suffice it to say that saw and did everything that all true tourists see and do. We visited Oxford, Chester, Edinburgh, Stratford (where the annual Shakespearean festival was going on), and the Trossachs before we left for the continent.

While we were in England we were sure nothing could be quite so wonderful but half an hour on the continent assured us that it could. The boat landed at the awful hour of six a.m. at the Hook of Holland. By nine a.m. we were at The Hague where we were each given a box of candies and a small bottle of liquor. We were made to feel extremely welcome—the Dutch people have a particularly warm spot for all Canadians—or so it seemed to us. While there we visited Marken where the inhabitants still wear native costume (strictly as tourist bait) then back to Amsterdam and on to Brussels.

From Belgium we went to Switzerland where we first stayed at Lucerne, the most beautiful place I have ever seen, before or since. One of the most fascinating things there were the 'Pedalos'. These are little boats which one can hire and are worked on the same principle as a bicycle! We spent an hour in them early one evening,

paying very little attention to what was going on around us when suddenly there was a loud blast of a whistle and we looked up to see one of the lake steamers bearing down on us. There was an immediate and rapid change of scenery.

Nothing could ever be quite so hot again as Italy, which was our next stop. When we arrived at Milan, it was all any of us could do to get out of the bus and into the hotel. The heat was so intense that everything, sky, roads, and buildings had a yellow sun-bake appearance. The next day was even worse when the thermometer hit 120° and as we dragged ourselves haggardly out of the bus it was no small wonder that a crowd of about sixty Venetians stopped to watch the parade. By this time also, we had been travelling long enough to have collected many weird and wonderful souvenirs. The collection had it been pooled would have contained countless large straw hats and baskets, several pair of wooden shoes, long tufted spears and a thousand countless other bits and pieces each too awkward to pack. We resembled a travelling circus more than what at one time had been a well run student's tour.

The heat continued next day while we saw the Cathedral, the Doges Palace, the Bridge of Sighs, the glass factories and took gondola rides. The following day we left for Rome where I was confined to the hotel room with tonsillitis. There was never a dull moment, however, even there, as the kitchen was right below my room and at frequent intervals the slops would be emptied or there would be a fight right below my window. After twenty-four hours of this, I decided that I couldn't possibly leave Rome without seeing St. Peter's, so I sallied forth. After that however with the threat of an Italian hospital with only one doctor and the doorman speaking English hanging over me, I decided that things had gone far enough and flew back to England, rations, Semolina puddings and above all, cool weather.

After recuperating for a week there, I joined the rest of the tour  
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