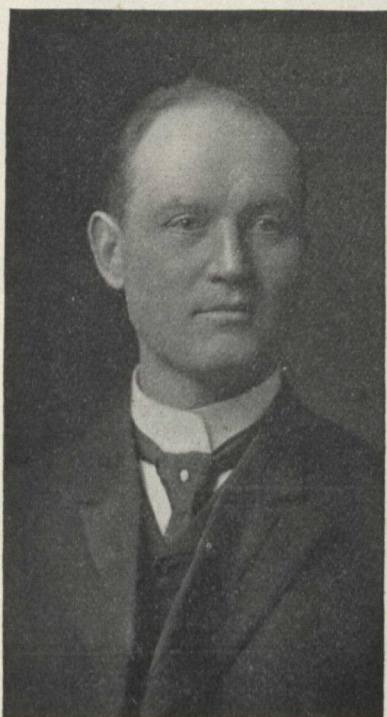


A New University Head



R. A. Falconer, LL.D.,
Principal Presbyterian College, Halifax.

It is not every day that a University selects a new head, and such an event is usually important and notable. When the University is one of the oldest and largest in the country, there is an added interest in the occasion.

The University of Toronto has had some great men in charge of its affairs, chief among whom were Dr. McCaul and Sir Daniel Wilson. President Loudon was not strong in literary or classical lines and was weak in public speaking. Consequently he failed to impress the public. His lot was cast in troubled times and his passing from office was contemporaneous with, but not the cause of, better opportunity.

The Maritime Provinces have again been called upon to supply "Canada" with an educationist. They have already contributed a president to McGill and two presidents to Queen's University, but this is the first time Toronto has found it necessary to draw upon the culture belt of the Dominion. Sir William Dawson and Principal Gordon were born in Pictou, Nova Scotia. Principal Grant claimed Albion Mines as his birthplace, but went to school in Pictou. Dr. Falconer, the new head of Toronto, must needs be mixed up with Pictou. His father, the Rev. Alex. Falconer, resides there. The son was, however, born in Prince Edward Island. Morgan gives Nova Scotia the credit, but this seems to be a mistake.

Dr. Falconer was educated in the Island of Trinidad,

at Edinburgh and in Germany. He is an LL.D. of Fredericton University and Francis Xavier College. From a West Indian Gilchrist Scholarship, via Edinburgh, Germany and Halifax to the University of Toronto is a far cry and illustrates how tortuous are the paths of glory which men are called upon to tread.

In 1892 he joined the staff of the Presbyterian College, Halifax, in 1895 became professor, and on retirement of Principal Pollock was chosen to succeed him. He has been intimately connected with Dalhousie and if he had not been called to Toronto would probably have been asked to succeed Principal Forrest when that veteran tires of the battle. He has been steadily growing in the estimation of educational circles in Nova Scotia and had attained a certain degree of leadership which looked to be all-conquering. The people of Nova Scotia will be sorry to lose him, but proud to know that he will occupy the highest educational position in the gift of the people of a sister province.

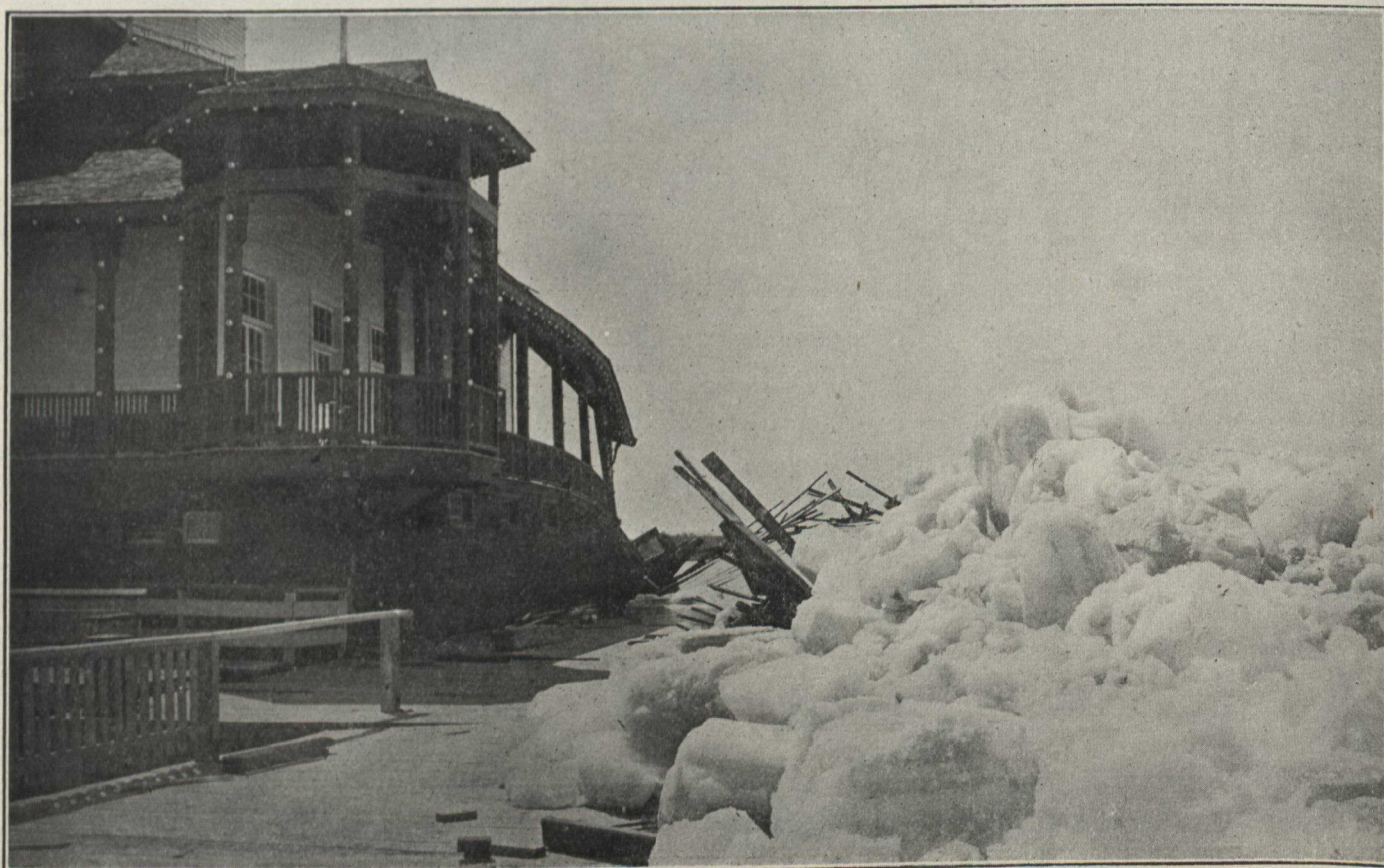
Dr. Falconer recently left for a summer in Greece and South Germany, but is cutting short his trip and returning immediately to give a final consideration to the question of his accepting the position which has somewhat unexpectedly been offered him.

If the reader will pardon the personal feature, we would like to give an extract from a letter written by Dr. Falconer to the editor of The Canadian Courier last November. He said:

"I have been greatly interested at learning that you are undertaking a new weekly paper for Canada. I have long hoped that some one would do for us what the 'Spectator' and 'The Nation' are doing for England and the Eastern States, and I sincerely wish you every success."

This journal has not yet attained to quite the literary excellence of the two journals mentioned by Dr. Falconer, but in time it may rival even these.

To the subject again. Dr. Falconer is a Presbyterian clergyman and it will be a great shock to history for a University founded for the express purpose of taking higher education in the Province of Ontario out of the hands of the church, to again have a cleric at its head. Nor was Dr. Falconer the only clergyman mentioned for the position. Two Church of England priests, it is said, were seriously considered. The whirligig of time brings great changes. There is no outcry against the choice. If there are protests, they are made silently.



An Ice Jam on the Ottawa River, at Britannia, a suburb of Ottawa. The Club House was badly damaged. When the ice breaks up on a river such as the Ottawa or the St. Lawrence, there is much trouble in store for some set of persons, and this year has been no exception.