

The Brunswickan

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RECOMMENDED READING

The Brunswickan this week is publishing, in full the text of the address rendered by Arthur L. Phelps, a Canadian, on Founder's Day. We do this fully aware that some have already heard or read his message, and others may not care to. But we consider it the most important document of this, or any other week. In the back pages readers will find a few items of incidental importance, and there are other campus news items racked up on the galleys, which are customarily found on the front page.

So seldom do we hear from a Canadian who speaks with the candor and the courage of Arthur Phelps. It is, as a letter writer suggests, lamentable that more of us were not on hand to hear the address, but had the audience been larger the speaker would have had less to say. The hollow echo in the gymnasium repeated his words and underlined their authenticity.

To those who would quarrel with his message, we would point out the unimportance of lack of accord. The reader is free to scan the text at leisure, and his own understanding should be enough to sustain or overrule his objections. What cannot be questioned is the unique sincerity, the blunt and simple exposition of the dilemma of which all Canadians, so constituted as to be condemned to thinking, are aware. We feel that never before has a community heard so simply and clearly the basic urgencies which will decide the question of its survival.

It has become habitual in universities that problems presented to students be accompanied by the answers, found in the back of the book, or explained away by the professor's chalk. Professor Phelps presents a clear delineation of the problems, supplemented only with a hint of direction. Students are so tutored so as to be able to answer questions with only a half understanding of the problem, content to apply some theory created by knowledge but worked in ignorance.

Here, we feel, is rebuttal for the polemic of the Prophets of Pessimism, the Ism Merchant, and the one-eyed adherent of Status Quo. We are pleased to hear a thinking Canadian at long last who would plead for innovation rather than imitation as the policy of our nation.

So, the Brunswickan this week has bypassed custom to provide for its readers the full message of the Founder's Day speaker. Our circulation prohibits its reaching more than 1650 Canadians. We rather feel it might also be of interest to all residents of New Brunswick, and all citizens of Canada. Indeed, it has been our privilege to have word of ourselves; it is a long time between sincerity and expediency.

CFNB 550 ON THE DIAL

will broadcast the

MOUNT "A" vs. U. N. B.

Basketball Game

8.00-9.30 p. m. — Friday March 14

Letters to the Editor

The Brunswickan,
Fredericton, N. B.
Dear Sir:

Many students at U.N.B. are more dead than the Founders whose deeds were commemorated last Tuesday. They had a vision of the future, and though they have passed into memory their works live after them.

Every undergraduate should blush with shame when he thinks of the small (student) attendance at the Founder's Day ceremony last night. Even the Normal School students, who are relatively new in the city and who have not had an opportunity to become acquainted with our University tradition were more interested in the Founders' Day celebration than we were.

I arrived at the Beaverbrook Gymnasium about twenty minutes past eight, expecting to find the place at least as crowded as it would have been had a game been scheduled for the evening. After all, I reasoned, Founders' Day is celebrated but once a year, and only the most outstanding men of Canada are selected as speakers. Then too, the BRUNSWICKAN had publicized it so well that all must have known about it.

What is wrong with the students on this campus? Or should I use the word "student" to describe those who missed the splendid address given by Prof. Phelps? Perhaps not. They do not deserve the name. It is nothing less than sheer hypocrisy for them to attend an institution of higher learning! If we,

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who are fortunate enough to attend university, and it is still a privilege, are so lethargic, how can there be any hope for the future of our country or of the world? But students at U.N.E. do not despair. That would require too much effort.

Perhaps a large and attentive audience would have been a contradiction of what Prof. Phelps had to say. Toward the close of his address, he referred to a group of people who possess "a poise of emptiness". His words aptly describe the condition of many at UNB.

Thank you.

Yours truly,
Robert Rogers

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