

# DALHOUSIE Gazette

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## A New Year's Resolution

New Year's is traditionally a time for making new resolutions but it is also a time for looking back over the past year at resolutions made and never fulfilled. We can remember several of them — particularly those put forth by the successful candidates during the Student Council elections last March.

At that time Eric Kinsman, running for the office of president, advocated in his platform many things — most of them praiseworthy — few at present fulfilled.

What has been done towards the creation of the coordinating committee for student activities of which we stand in such need? Who has heard anything further of a Letter Nite at which the D.A.A.C. and D.G.A.C. awards would be presented rather than at these organizations annual banquets as is now the case? Where is the Lost and Found Bureau which was to have been established?

What, particularly, has become of Mr. Kinsman's resolution to have the agenda posted before and the minutes after each Council meeting? This is mandatory, in the Student Council constitution but has not been fulfilled for several years. It would be a plume in Mr. Kinsman's hat indeed if he would at once fulfil both the constitution and his own platform.

The budget, too, was to have been posted within one month after it was passed by the Council but as yet no copy has been seen on any board.

Bruce Lockwood, at that time running for the vice-presidency of the Council, had little better success in the implementation of his platform resolutions. The Big Brother system was considered unfeasible for men students on further consideration and what of the plans for a better Health Service at an extra cost of \$1.00? Ward rates have been raised by this sum but we have as yet to discover any improvement in the lamentable and sometimes farcical Health Service.

Political platforms are notorious for their Utopian qualities and their habit of discreetly disappearing into remote pigeonholes once the dust of election week has settled. It is doubly unfortunate, however, that this should be so in the present case for the proposals which have been so lightly glossed over are worthy of a much closer attention.

We would suggest that both Mr. Kinsman and Mr. Lockwood, instead of forming new resolutions resolve to implement the old.

## A Wise Decision

The decision of the delegates at the Canadian University Press conference held during the holidays at McMaster, to adopt French and English as the official languages of the CUP was a wise move and the only decision that could with any pretense of justice, have been reached.

The admission of French to a par with English has long been accepted by law but as in many other cases where emotion is a ruling factor it has been much slower to be accepted by the general public.

Emotional feelings have not been lacking on either side for if English Canadians have tended to regard Canada as their indisputable heritage, particularly if they live in a region where the French population is small. The French Canadians have tended to see every move as a threat to their rights and to stand very much on privilege rather than attempting to work in harness with their countrymen.

It would be safe to say that this situation has been the greatest single stumbling block to national unity since Canada's inception. It has held us back, in the past, politically, economically and culturally, and has been in danger of leaving us permanently divided into two nations.

Yet there have been in recent years a sign that a solution to the problem was being approached and it is in this light that we welcome the move made by the University Press delegates. It is another step forward.

Canada is a bi-lingual country and will remain so, but it is not the separate growth of two cultures that our future lies but in the growth of one great culture having its roots in both yet greater than either.

## Letters To the Editor

Jan. 6, 1952

Dear Madam:

At a time when everyone is busy making New Year's resolutions it seems fitting to lodge this request that a certain institution on this campus make and keep a few resolutions too. I refer to the canteen in the Men's Residence.

It has long appeared to me that Dalhousie has been cursed with, to put it mildly, an inadequate canteen service. There was a time when this inadequacy rested with the small space available in the old "Gym Store". This problem was erased with the removal of the canteen to the Residence. But now it appears that a new evil has arisen to take the place of the old one of congestion. I refer to poor service.

The time between classes is short and such is the service that a visit to the canteen will be without reward, no matter how incidental the object of such visit is. Too often the many-seated counter is filled with people who have waited 10 to 15 minutes before even so much as an acknowledgment of one's presence is achieved. Too often, when an order is finally given, a period of waiting just as long, occurs before the order is delivered. Again, it often happens that orders have to be repeated before success can be claimed.

Perhaps it will be said that they are short-staffed or that in a rush hour it is impossible to give good service. But there are too many instances when the poor service is inexcusable. Perhaps it is the heat or the smoky air they breathe, but whatever it is, the waitresses behind the counter move in the casual, sleepy and disinterested manner of the proverbial tortoise. I suggest strongly that if they were slightly more active, service would improve. Would that a little more speed be their new year's resolution.

And incidentally, if this appears beyond their limited ability, perhaps they could raise the standard of their lifeless sandwiches. —Graduate, '51

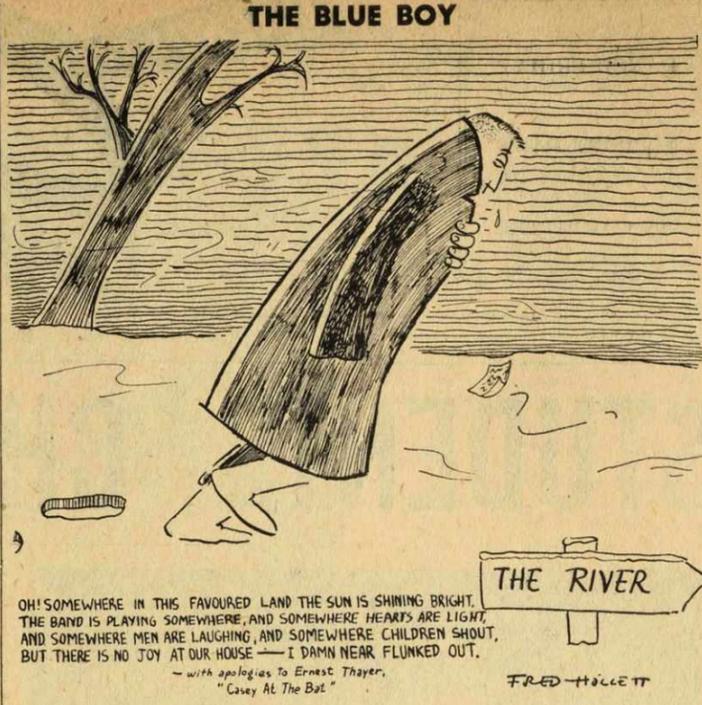
The other evening a group of us were talking about the prospects of getting reasonable jobs after graduating and we came to the conclusion that a good percentage of us would have to look outside Nova Scotia if we wanted an income that would allow us more than one pair of shoes every three years. The alternative is to work in Nova Scotia and abandon our children as they came along; that way we could eat three times a day. Now I don't mean to criticize the opportunities in Nova Scotia generally, but a job that will likely fall to a lot of us, teaching, is one department that could use a few breaks. We compared the local wage of \$125 dollars a month (or less) to the \$180 a month paid in Toronto. We saw in the newspaper that a Nova Scotia school principal may earn up to \$2500 a year, while parts of Ontario pay \$3500 to a public school teacher. We came to some very sad conclusions about our future, regardless of our zeal; the evening, however, was saved from utter melancholy by a story told to us by a school-teacher who was present. I am passing the story on to you just to show you there is yet a hope, and what a hope.

"It seems that John, who was a reliable student of fine calibre, resolved, on graduating from high school, to continue his learning to a higher level and thereby be in a position to offer his service to the teaching profession. Before entering University he worked for a year or two at various manual and clerical jobs that he might have a greater understanding of the world and its ways.

Presently he entered University and became well acquainted with both classical and technical knowledge; he graduated with grades in the Honours bracket and duly enrolled and graduated from the College of Education, with compliments to the effect that he was most promising and could be assured of a successful career.

John accepted a post in a rural school, humbly accepted the low wage, presently took the big step and married a prohibitionists daughter, nonetheless they soon found themselves with a family, and without cheques and hampers from John's uncle, who was a Cape Breton distiller, they undoubtedly would have gone unclothed on his teachers wages."

However, dear readers, do not despair for John's future. During his summers away from University, he had acquired a working knowledge of many vocations, and armed with this second string in his bow and a sheath of extra-curricular arrows he went to sea as an able-seaman and on a basic pay of \$182 dollars a month plus



the odd dollar gained from smuggling rum and perfume from the West Indies, he was soon able to put money down on a comfortable home, buy a modest car and provide adequately for his wife and growing family. In the near future he hopes to sit for his mate's ticket and expects to make his fortune at sea. Amen. Now, like the tale of Frankie and Johnny, this story has no

moral, it only goes to show that either John is undoubtedly the most well educated seaman from the Pillars of Hercules to Barrington Passage or that the Nova Scotia Department of Education makes the pre-Christmas Scrooge look like a philanthropist. Take your choice. Finally, a Happy New Year to all the ships at sea and the Minister of Education. A. F. D.

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