

Amongst the many distinctions achieved by him may be mentioned the degree of LL.D., which he received from his Alma Mater in 1889, in company with Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir Oliver Mowat, and the honor of knighthood, conferred on him by Her Majesty in 1896. No honor, however, which Sir William has received, testifies more significantly to his popularity and to the esteem in which he is held by men of every calling, creed and party, than his unanimous election to the Chancellorship of the University of Toronto, on the resignation of his predecessor, the Hon. Edward Blake, in February last.

It will be gratifying to the Alumni to know that during the short period which has elapsed since his election, Sir William has been able to give much time and attention to the business of his new office. The record of his public career furnishes ample evidence that he will administer ably and uprightly the great trust committed to him, and that, if occasion should arise, he will with his old-time courage and independence safeguard the interests of the University, from whatever quarter they may be threatened.

MR. BLAKE'S ADDRESS

The students of all the courses are indebted to the Political Science Club for the excellent programs presented at their meetings, and especially for the contact with many of our greatest public men. Perhaps no more important words have been addressed to the students of Toronto University in recent years, than those spoken by the Hon. S. H. Blake, M.A., Q.C., before the Club last Thursday afternoon.

Mr. Blake's subject was "Some thoughts on the ideals of our National University." We need not say it was one of peculiar interest, and the remarks of one so deeply concerned and so eminently capable, demand the most earnest consideration of all who love our University—professors, graduates and undergraduates alike.

Mr. Blake pointed out the fact that as a University we are in a formative process and high ideals are a necessary factor in our development.

As a National University we should answer the needs of the nation. We must develop an institution open to all young men and women, rich and poor—an institution which will keep high the standards of our learned professions—an institution which will advance on broad national lines, and which will stand for all that is best and truest in the moral and intellectual life of our Dominion.

For the attainment of our ideals, buildings and equipment are necessary. In this respect we may justly feel proud of our University, and yet we must not rest satisfied with what we have. We must keep pace with the growing demands of our age.

"But, after all, handsome buildings and splendid surroundings will not lend greatness to any institution. Within our walls we must have life—life, centred in a living head, who shall be the moving and leading spirit in all the activities of our University. The position calls for a great man,—a man of power and sympathy, a man who not only can speak and teach, but who will live in all his students and inspire them to greater and nobler things. It is difficult to find such a head for a national University, but it is not impossible, nor should we rest satisfied till we see every chair in our University filled by just such men."

Mr. Blake then pointed out how impossible is our progress towards our ideal without means. Toronto University has not received the support from the Province which our national prosperity demands, nor has she even received what she has a right to ask. The only annual revenue derived from the Government is \$7,000, in part

settlement of outstanding claims against the Government, while to meet the growing needs from year to year, the fees of students in Arts have gradually increased from \$12 to \$52 per annum. Even with this, last year closed with a deficit of \$14,000.

He made the excellent and practical suggestion that a proportion of the Provincial succession duties should be set apart in perpetuity by the Government as a University fund.

Mr. Blake spoke of the endeavor which is being made to obtain provincial grants for other Universities, a move, he said, which struck at the very root of our educational system, and which should call forth the determined opposition of all friends of this, our national University.

In closing he urged all students and graduates to face their individual responsibility in this important matter, and to keep clearly before them the highest ideals. "A crisis has come in our history. The hour is ripe for action. Let each perform faithfully his part so that in days to come we may look back upon this testing time remembering that we stood true to our National University, that we strengthened her foundations, and enlarged her sphere of usefulness, and that we handed down our Alma Mater, loved, honored and preserved."

UNIVERSITY FINANCES.

The University of Toronto is supposed, by those who do not know the real circumstances of the case, to be rich and to have the resources of the province in reserve at its disposal in case of need. Others there are who know what the income is, and yet contend that the institution is liberally provided for. The fact is that the University is seriously cramped for want of money, and that its further expansion is impossible unless additional funds are provided. The undergraduates of this year will be the graduates of next year, and all of them will have an influence in molding and directing public opinion. The first step towards this is a knowledge of the real financial situation, and it is to afford the elements of such a knowledge that the following statistics are given.

The total income of the University during the past financial year from all sources was \$121,771.92 exclusive of the Medical Faculty, which pays its own way. When this sum is contrasted with the income of even one of the weaker universities of the United States it appears almost ludicrously small. Michigan State University, for example, which affords a ready parallel, expends annually \$500,000, i. e., more than four times as much as the University of Toronto.

What are the sources of this \$121,000. In the finance report these sources are classified under eighteen heads, which for simplicity may be reduced to four. The figures are as follows:—

From Endowment.....	\$66,439
Special Government Grant	7,000
Government Sales of Wild Lands.....	3,620
Fees for Tuition, etc.....	44,703

By "endowment" is meant the revenue-bearing portion of that original estate of 500,000 acres which was set apart by the crown a hundred years ago for the maintenance of the University, which at that time was only *in posse*. This grant was the original source of what now, under all the varying forms of debentures, rented lands, tenements, etc., etc., brings in the very modest sum of \$66,439 annually.

The next largest, and by far the most striking item among the four, is that of "fees," and of this sum the larger part is paid by the Undergraduates in Arts. The fees as a source of income have risen from \$6,000 some