

The Value of Residences: It is important for Canada that the young men and women who enter its universities should get the greatest benefit from their higher education. In the opinion of those most competent to judge, this means that the great majority of students who must leave home to go to college should live in university residences rather than in lodgings. The communal life of the college residence provides for a young man or woman a personal, social, and intellectual experience that is an important adjunct to the more purely academic training of the classroom and the laboratory.

This was emphasized in a series of papers presented to the annual meeting of the National Conference of Canadian Universities in June 1957. Monseigneur Irénée Lussier, Rector of the University of Montreal, for example, in his paper entitled 'Are University Residences Beneficial Academically?' said that the secretary of the Students' Association who lived at the University of Montreal residence expressed the unanimous satisfaction of the students in this residence, and Msgr. Lussier concluded, 'Taking into account even only the academic advantages, I am thinking of a new wing.' In a second paper on the same topic, Mr. T. H. B. Symons, Dean of Devonshire House, a men's residence at the University of Toronto, said that in England the six post-war universities had all made clear that their ambition from the outset was to be residential, and several of their Vice-Chancellors had emphasized that they regarded good residence as 'the most potent single factor in higher education.' Mr. Symons concluded his paper with the suggestion that a development of residences would be one form of expansion consistent with Newman's definition of a university as 'not a foundry, or a mint, or a treadmill, but an Alma Mater, knowing her children one by one'.

Studies of the examination results at the University of Alberta show that the results of students living in residence are consistently better than the results of those who live outside. The view that life in residence contributes significantly to educational achievement is universally held by those familiar with universities.

The Present Supply of University Residence Accommodation: The population of Canada in 1951 was 14,009,429. Of these, 5,084,013 lived in towns in which there was a recognized degree granting university. This would indicate that if the percentage of young men and women going to a university was constant throughout the country, the number who had to live away from home would be much greater than the number who could live with their families. Actually, the percentage going to a university is much higher among the young people of university towns.

At McGill University, in 1937-38, over 57% of the out-of-town students were able to live in university residences. In 1957-58, this percentage had dropped to 34%. Construction of new residences has lagged behind the growth in student numbers. This is true across the whole country. For example, in Alberta in 1937-38, about 25% of the total student body lived in residence; in 1957-58 the figure had dropped to about 17%.

Data for 23 universities indicate that only 15% of the total student body can at present be housed in university residences. These figures, set out in Appendix I, include over 70% of the 86,500 students in all the universities and colleges of Canada. It will be seen that some important universities have no residences: Memorial, Carleton, Sir George Williams. Some, like Dalhousie, New Brunswick, Laval, and Saskatchewan can house only a small proportion of their out-of-town students.

Even where more plentiful accommodation is available, it is common to read in the university calendar, 'Rooms are reserved for freshmen and a selected number of senior students.' In the three University of Alberta residences, which accommodate 450 students, 90 beds are reserved for senior students. All