

The Small College

A complaint sometimes made against the small college is that it fails to provide the broad and comprehensive view that is an essential ingredient of a well-rounded liberal education. Many a young person has been advised not to "waste" his time in one when he might just as easily acquire admission to a larger institution where he could expect to broaden his perspective and widen his intellectual horizons. Only a few years ago this confusion of bigness with worth was an academic fashion, so much so that many small and highly efficient colleges were hard put to justify their claim to public recognition.

There are signs now, however, of a more reasonable evaluation of the small college. Educators, in increasing numbers, are expressing doubt that bigness is necessarily the one thing needful in any school or educational system. Some are going so far as to suggest that in certain circumstances the small institution may have distinct advantages over the larger one. One of these advantages, in the opinion of Dr. Albert C. Jacobs, President of Trinity College in Hartford, Conn., is the special facilities it offers for encouraging bright students to keep ahead of dullness. In declaring his intention, and that of the trustees, to keep Trinity "geared to small classes and high academic standards", Dr. Jacobs referred to the "tragic error of providing one pattern of education on an assembly line process suitable only for the average or mediocre student".

It is sometimes argued that the bigger a college is, from the standpoint of student enrolment, the more likely it is to be able to obtain and keep the most highly qualified teachers. Fortunately, this argument is not as respectable as it once was. Dr. Jacobs himself is, by all accounts, one of the foremost educators in America; yet he has elected to remain in a relatively small college, despite more lucrative offers elsewhere. Other gifted teachers and administrators have made a similar preference, to their own credit and much to the advantage of the colleges fortunate enough to retain their services. Anyone who might be disposed to inquire into this thesis would not have to go far to prove its validity.

India, The Big Prize

If the recent Foreign Ministers' Conference had not ended so unsatisfactorily, the current visit of Soviet leaders to India could be considered as little more than an act of courtesy towards Prime Minister Nehru who visited Moscow a few months ago. But, as matters stand, with a harsh renewal of cold war practices as about the best that can be expected in the foreseeable future, the visit takes on important, and perhaps sinister, implications. The one plain fact that emerged from the Geneva meeting was that the Soviet Union is determined to extend its influence to its farthest possible limit; Mr. Molotov left no doubt on that score when he as good as told the Western delegates that Russia would sell—or give—arms to any country that might be expected to make trouble for the Western alliance.

It is obvious that India is the big Asiatic prize coveted by the Soviet rulers. Obvious, and understandable; for with India under Soviet domination or even in Mr. Nehru's much beloved state of permanent "neutrality", Western prestige in Asia, what there is of it, would deteriorate rapidly. The manner in which the Russians will seek to win that big prize has already been intimated in news dispatches regarding the Russians' visit: Russia will offer India greatly increased economic aid, bigger and better than anything

the West has sent; "The Soviet Government understands fully the efforts of the Indian Government to secure peace"—Premier Bulganin. It is a fact that relations between Mr. Nehru and the West are not as cordial as they were before the setting up of SEATO, which Mr. Nehru professes to believe is a hindrance rather than an aid to peace in Asia. This view, of course, suits the Russian purpose admirably; before the visitors leave New Delhi they can be counted on to elaborate lavishly on the Prime Minister's wisdom in that respect. From that to India's sympathy for Russia's antipathy towards NATO may not be an inevitable step; but that the Russians will find ways of suggesting it is a certainty.

Every device known to cunning men will be used in an attempt to persuade India that her true destiny lies not with the West but with Russia and Communist China, "India's good neighbours", as Premier Bulganin described them. How Mr. Nehru will react to all this remains to be seen. However, one statement he made in his welcoming speech must have heartened his visitors considerably: "Our two countries are very close to each other, and I am glad that every day bonds of friendship are being further strengthened."

EDITORIAL NOTES

In putting a container of Island earth on display at the Royal Fair in Toronto, Mr. T. E. Rowley not only drew public attention to the richness of our soil but, at the same time, gave many native Islanders who are now living in other parts of Canada an unusual and much appreciated pleasure.

It is reported that Moroccans acted so boisterously when the word "independence" was mentioned by Sultan Mohammed ben Youssef in his enthronement speech that many of them fainted from sheer excitement. They'll have to control their emotions better than that if they hope to make a success of their newly acquired status.

"With the return to the Sherifian Throne of His Majesty Sidi Mohammed ben Youssef", said a French Government spokesman the other day, "the way is henceforth open for constructive negotiation of Moroccan problems". The sultan must find that fine talk amusing. Less than six months ago the French were referring to him as "that troublemaker". How things change, to be sure!

It may have been just a coincidence that the C.P.R. decision to remove Greenock from the Empress of Scotland's Canada-United Kingdom run was made when Dame Flora MacLeod was away from home. On the other hand, it could have been planned that way on the theory that the chief not being around, the Scottish opposition to the move would be less articulate. But, surely they never thought they could get away with a trick like that!

The demand for more comfortable living conditions has reached right out to the "crossroads of the Atlantic". The lightship "Nantucket" which for years has been the stormy link between the old world and the new is to be moved a few miles to the southwest so that its crew will be subjected to less danger from winds and currents. The purpose is, of course, most commendable. Nevertheless, it will provide a lot of amusement for old retired seamen, who are quite sure that going to sea is not the adventurous thing it used to be.

Probably because of the new tensions that are abroad, the Russian newspaper men who have been visiting the United States did not receive anything like the hospitality extended to the visiting farm delegation last summer. One senator who consented to see them for a few minutes told them they did not look nearly as honest as the farmers who preceded them. Another asked them if they had the slightest idea of the meaning of a free press. Asked to comment on the reception they received, one of the visitors said he was surprised that United States senators were so ill-mannered.



A NATIVE SON GONE WESTERNER

The World Their Laboratory

By Ben Price  
Associated Press, Washington

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion of subjects of general interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of contributors.

A BRILLIANT SCHOLAR

(The late D. A. MacRae)  
Sir.—In the life history of the late Donald Alexander MacRae, Ph.D., native of Canoe Cove, that recently appeared in The Guardian, certain interesting and remarkable facts in connection with his education were unfortunately omitted. The most remarkable of these is, perhaps, the fact that Donald Alexander did not enter Dalhousie University alma mater, by the usual steps of his high school or Junior College. It is true he passed at an early age, and at the head of the class, the junior matriculation at Prince of Wales College, but he did not attend this famous college. Instead of doing so, he immediately after his matriculation secured a position in Prowse Bros. clothing store, and spent upwards of seven years there as a well-to-do efficient clerk behind the counter.

D.A., however, thirsted for higher education, and during the long winter evenings of the last year or two he spent behind the counter studying, partly under private tutors, the various subjects required for entrance to Dalhousie University, and in 1894 he applied for matriculation to that institution with the request that he be allowed to compete for an entrance scholarship. The Principal for that year, however, informed him regretfully that he could not compete legally for a Dalhousie entrance scholarship as the entrance scholarships were specifically provided for ex-students of Maritime high schools, including P. W. C. which he did not attend. The Dalhousie principal, however, was greatly impressed with D. A.'s conversation and personal appearance, and offered to test his scholastic standing by a private examination. To this proposition D. A. readily assented, and in a few days after his examination he was called to the office of the Principal who told him he had examined his papers and he was going to allow him to compete for a scholarship even if he, the principal of Dalhousie University, lost his position for allowing him to do so.

D. A. competed and won his scholarship; and year after year his Island friends read with great pleasure the announcement that D. A. MacRae of Prince Edward Island had passed his year's course in Arts at Dalhousie University, leading his class each year with unusually high honors in all subjects. These announcements concluded in 1898 with the announcement that Donald Alexander MacRae of Prince Edward Island had graduated in Arts at Dalhousie University winning the gold medal, and with honors in classics and mathematics unsurpassed in the records of that institution.

In the following year D. A. entered Cornell University winning a fellowship worth \$1000 a year, and as stated in the recent life-sketch in The Guardian he both studied and taught in the classes for several years at Cornell, and afterwards at Princeton University. After his graduation in law at Osgoode Hall, he held for ten years the position of Dean in Dalhousie Law School, and finally, a similar position in Osgoode Hall for several years, and was recognized during this period as one of the leading legal authorities in Canada.

Like the late Sir Andrew MacPhail of Orwell, Donald MacRae had a touch of ancestor worship in his veins, and until recent years he seldom during his holidays failed to visit the old homestead of his father and mother, the late Finlay and Anne MacNevin MacRae, at Canoe Cove. His lofty learning at no time in his professional career deprived him of the common touch, and he loved to share for a season in the homely joys of country life on his native island. A fitting symbol of his filial affection was to be found for years before his death in the old spinning wheel of his mother that he kept carefully guarded in the well-furnished parlor of his home in Toronto.

In his religious life too, Doctor MacRae remained unmoved from his early Christian faith, instilled and nourished in him in his father's home, and in the old Church of Scotland at Canoe Cove, now united with the Presbyterian church in Canada. At the time of the larger church union in Canada, he joined the United Church and remained up to the time of his death a steadfast member and elder in his home church on Bloor Street, Toronto.

I am Sir, etc.  
M. MACKENZIE  
Canoe Cove.

Scientists of 40 nations are quietly preparing to use the world as their laboratory in mankind's greatest single quest for knowledge. Before they are through they will have redrawn the shape of the globe, searched for clues as to what goes on in the earth's core, probed into space, taken the earth's temperature, examined the sun and plumbed the oceans.

This gigantic effort by 5,000 scientists scattered from the Arctic to the Antarctic and around the equator will reach a peak in 1957-58, designated the International Geophysical Year. Never before has man undertaken such an ambitious project. The scientists believe the data they assemble will be not only of immediate practical use but will form the foundation of studies for the next 100 years.

For the million or so years man has been on earth he has been at the mercy of ice, floods, earthquakes and storms. Continents have risen and disappeared. Millions of fertile acres have turned to desert. Civilizations have been displaced. The scientists know these things. Their eternal question is: What is happening to the earth? In the 18 months July 1, 1957, to Jan. 1, 1958, the scientists will study solar activity, longitude and latitude, glaciology, oceanography, geomagnetism, aurora and air glow, ionosphere physics, seismology, gravity, cosmic rays and the upper atmosphere.

As part of the effort of the United States a man-made satellite will be forced into space to orbit around the planet 200 to 800 miles up where it will measure the density and composition of the air, check the distance between continents, measure ultra-violet ray emanations from the sun and broadcast all this information back to the earth.

This satellite may be man's first rung on a ladder to the stars. IGY is not the first international scientific effort. There have been two smaller ones known as the first and second international polar years of 1882-83 and 1932-33. They were organized for Arctic observations, meteorology and the aurora.

The Age Old Story

Remember me, O Lord, with the favour that thou bearest unto thy people: O visit me with thy salvation; that I may see the gladness of thy nation, that I may glory with thine inheritance.

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Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D.

"ARMCHAIR THERAPY" FOR HEART CONDITION  
"Armchair therapy" may be a greater aid to some heart patients than the traditionally ordered strict bed rest routine.

Some doctors believe that permanent infarction and congestive failure to spend much of their time sitting in comfortable armchairs. Prolonged bed rest, they argue, slows circulation. This, along with the pressure exerted by continued rest in bed upon the deep veins in the calf and thigh, may lead to thrombosis of the blood vessels.

Bedsore, constipation and other minor hazards you are likely to encounter during a long period spent in bed, may be eased or eliminated by changing to a sitting position in a chair. It may also help prevent your muscles from becoming weak.

HEART WORKS HARDER

Actually, lying in bed might cause your hearts left ventricle to work harder than it should, with pulmonary congestion resulting. Your heart does not rest more just because you are reclining. Standing quietly causes less cardiac output than lying down.

One big advantage in the armchair method is the improvement in the patients mental attitude. Naturally, you're going to feel a lot better mentally if you don't have to lie in bed all the time. Your doctor might not advise this type of therapy in your case. But if he does—and don't try it without his orders—here is what he'll probably tell you to do.

During the first and second days you will be permitted to sit in a chair for 15 minutes to half an hour. Rest your feet comfortably on the floor.

Gradually, this time for sitting is increased. As a rule, the sitting up period is doubled, or almost doubled, each succeeding day until you are spending from six to eight hours in a chair every day.

This program, however, might have to be modified in some cases. That's up to your doctor; don't try it without his permission.

Just because you can sit up, don't think you can walk around. You should not. And you must have aid in getting to and from the chair.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

M.A.A.: My wife has had an arrested case of tuberculosis for more than a year. Am I in any danger of contracting it?

Answer: If your wife has a non-infectious type of tuberculosis, it is not likely that you would contract the disease from her. However, periodic tests of her sputum are advisable to determine whether or not the infection has become active again.

CLUB GUARD

DOVER, N.H. (AP)—Four prisoners awaiting trial clubbed a guard and escaped from the Stratford county jail Monday night. Two fear; the wolves would not have approached any closer. In his book, Wolves Don't Bite, the late James Curran reported that the Algoma Wolf Club had never been able to find an authenticated record of an attack upon man anywhere in the world. The biological service in Washington wrote that its files contained no record of wolves in North America ever killing people. Some years ago, Douglas Robertson of the Telegram wrote to the Russian government and asked about reports of wolves attacking serfs. The reply was that no case had been authenticated. That was before the revolution.

—Toronto Telegram.

NOTES BY THE WAY

A Canadian newspaperman just back from Moscow reports (whether from personal experience or hearsay we do not know) that Russian workers often join hands and sing on their way to work in the early morning, or join hands and do a joyful dance outside the factory's gates. A worker in this country who did a thing like that would be strongly suspected of coming to work directly from a party. —Cornwall Standard-Freeholder.

A program of useful legislation was laid before the Legislature yesterday in the speech from the throne. Wider housing and workmen's compensation programs were announced, the problem of water pollution will be taken up, and special and welcome reference was made to the assistance which will be given for building a concert hall here. Quebec's municipalities also learned with satisfaction that the Government will set itself to ease the burdens of municipal and school corporations. —Montreal Star.

Overtaken by darkness as they followed deer tracks, two Timmins hunters spent a night beside a fire, circled by howling wolves. There was quite a piece in the papers about it. Upon careful reading of the news report, one learns that the men did not see the wolves; it is dark at night. Accordingly they did not use their weapons—a rifle and a shotgun—but threw sticks in the brush when sounds seemed to indicate that the animals were closing in. The prominence given this narrative of the men, back to back, guarding their lives, is bound to bring forward disbelievers in wolf homicide. A Lands and Forest official states that these hunters had nothing to fear; the wolves would not have approached any closer. In his book, Wolves Don't Bite, the late James Curran reported that the Algoma Wolf Club had never been able to find an authenticated record of an attack upon man anywhere in the world. The biological service in Washington wrote that its files contained no record of wolves in North America ever killing people. Some years ago, Douglas Robertson of the Telegram wrote to the Russian government and asked about reports of wolves attacking serfs. The reply was that no case had been authenticated. That was before the revolution.

There are some people who abhor holidays. Deprived of the routine or the satisfaction of their jobs, even temporarily, such people are singularly unhappy. For to them their work is their life. The idiosyncrasies of those who prefer to work, even though entitled to holidays with pay, poses no problem except in trade union circles. The influential British weekly, Time and Tide, reports that there have recently been a number of strikes or threatened strikes by organized labor in the United Kingdom, in order to compel fellow workers to take full advantage of their annual leave, even though, for purely personal reasons, some wished to stay at work for all or part of the holiday period. Forcing men to take holidays when they don't wish to do so is surely nothing more than a vexatious interference with the rights of the individual. —Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

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