

President's address -
W. Y. Alumni
May 4/34.

First of all, Mr. Chairman, may I congratulate you and your Committee on your very happy arrangements for this evening? Here we are, mostly Canadians, on the friendliest foreign soil a Canadian ever treads. Many of us are ^{indeed} new American citizens, by a process which is almost imperceptible, and altogether painless. At least so I am told by those who have gone through the operation. And to greet us, and forgather with us, are eminent Americans whose cordial interest in Canada has long been known. It has been my good fortune in the past to hear John Finley address an audience in another Canadian University. I say then that this is a very happy commingling, and eminently suited to a University gathering. Though nationality is a great thing, and a precious thing, science, literature and the whole sweep of human thought are not national. These things, and hence a university, which deals with these things, admit no frontiers.

Mr. Chairman, I propose to speak very briefly, in order to allow more time for our distinguished American guests, and more time for the eloquent Premier of Nova Scotia. And so I shall not take time to tell funny stories - though I know two funny stories.

I shall take the two or three moments at my disposal to ~~tell you~~ ^{sketch} of some features of the University situation, which I think will most interest you.

I am often asked these days, when away from Halifax: "What is the financial situation?" Without going into details, I wish to make three things clear:

- First - We have not cut professors' salaries;
- Second - We have not appreciably raised the fees of students;
- Third, and final - In spite of not cutting salaries, and in spite of hardly raising the fees at all, we shall have the lowest deficit this year in twelve years.

Now, that has taken a bit of doing. It has required the most stringent economy in all departments and in all faculties; it has required very ^{sturdy} steady begging, and perhaps I have thought more about money in the last three years than a human being should ever allow himself to think. But we have kept the flag flying, and those who know the situation from the inside will tell you that the teaching quality of the University and the facilities for study have not been impaired.

In some respects, indeed, we are better provided than we ever were before. It is a matter of common remark among our professors that the University Library has grown in the last three years on a scale without precedent in the history of Dalhousie.

Again, we have been able to add a few additional scholarships. The endowment of scholarships is, and will be, for some time to come, our most pressing need - great as some of the other needs are.

In New York last week I was told by two of the Directors of the Carnegie Corporation that reports had reached them from all three Maritime Provinces that a new spirit of cooperation between the schools of the Maritime Provinces and Dalhousie University was very apparent. And it is true that we have been able to throw one or two foot-bridges across the chasm, which has hitherto yawned between teachers in the schools and teachers in Dalhousie. I hardly have time to go into details here. These results have come about as the result of earnest endeavours on the part of some of our professors as well as myself.

Another relationship which must never be lost sight of at Dalhousie is University Federation in the Maritime Provinces. You will perhaps be glad to hear that negotiations are well advanced to bring another degree granting

college into the Dalhousie fold. Some other negotiations of a more far reaching kind are as yet merely tentative, but they have been received in such a friendly way that I am confident they will bring results at a later date.

And now I must close, but not before I tell you what a great pleasure it has been to meet you again. Every time I come I get a little better acquainted, and an increasing number of messages from individuals in your ranks reach me from time to time, ^a All of them encouraging and helpful.

May 2, 1934.