

Registration at Dalhousie University is now complete. The total number of students is 913 or 26 short of the total of last year.

Many erroneous reports of the registration have appeared in the press, and not merely as to the total number. For example, it has been stated that there was a drop, in the total registration, of 100 students; that the increase of students in the professional schools was due to the increase of students from abroad; that the number in first year Commerce had dropped by two-thirds; and in particular it has been suggested that the heightening of matriculation standards was the chief cause of the shrinkage in students. None of these statements are true.

The cause of the shrinkage in the number of students this year and last year, not only in Dalhousie but in the Maritime Universities in general, is the universal business depression. A glance at the phenomenally heavy enrolment in Grade XII, all over the Province of Nova Scotia, makes this abundantly clear. In some centres Grade XII is six times as large as it was in the past. Not all of these pupils looked forward to a university course, but scores of them did. Indeed this autumn, students who were tentatively registered at Dalhousie have sent word that they were attending Grade XII instead. Again, many students in the upper years have been obliged to drop out, for the time being at least.

Twelve more students from the Maritime Provinces and Newfoundland are attending the Dalhousie Medical School than last year, seven more from the same constituencies are in Law. Only of Dentistry can it be said that the increase in students is due to the increase of students from abroad. Now, over all the American continent, in no university faculty have there been such violent fluctuations in numbers as in Dentistry. This has been true ever since the War. For example, in the McGill Dental School, the numbers rose from 34 to 53 last year, and have fallen to 39 this year. Such variations make it very hard to staff and equip a dental school. They are due largely to the swift repercussions on

dental practices of alternate boom and depression in business.

At Dalhousie there has been very little change in the number of Commerce students, but the drop in the number of Engineering students is striking. In view of the times this is natural; though it may very well be that the "time-lag" is being overlooked, and that boys and parents should try to envisage developments five years hence.

It is true that Dalhousie has given a lead in the matter of heightening college standards in the Maritime Provinces. But this is in the order of things, if we are to maintain our prestige as the important university in the Maritime Provinces. Here in Halifax much complaint is being made of the backwardness of our city schools. But any student of education knows that in the Maritime Provinces at large there has been an enormous stride made in elementary and secondary education. Consider for a moment such a phenomenon as Memorial College, in Newfoundland, brought into being at a bound, and entrusted to the direction of one of the really great schoolmasters of our time. Or consider the stride made in Charlottetown, in the new Prince of Wales College. (Both these institutions have had the powerful backing of the Carnegie Corporation of New York) Contrast the present facilities for secondary education in Saint John, N. B., with those existing ten years ago. In Nova Scotia itself the heightening of standards in the schools under the supervision of Dr. Munro has been steady and general. In the face of these great changes Dalhousie cannot stand still. Both formally and informally the schools of the Maritime Provinces have asked the universities to raise their entrance standards, so that the schools can maintain theirs. Dalhousie has acceded to this request. Having a choice between giving a college education to qualified and ambitious college students or cumbering our classes with students who found High School too hard, our course is clear. But there is no evidence whatever that our decision has appreciably diminished our numbers. In these provinces youth is encouraged, not deterred, by obstacles requiring intelligence.

October 16, 1933.

George Farquhar, Esq.,
Editor-in-Chief, The Chronicle Company,
Halifax, N. S.

Dear Mr. Farquhar:

Registration at Dalhousie is now practically complete, and I am sending you, at my earliest opportunity, a statement on the matter. I should be glad to have it appear in tomorrow's issue of the "Chronicle", if you can find space for it.

Yours faithfully,

President.

CS/LH.

*Encl. - copy of enclosure taken by
Pres. to Herald office - Oct. 16/33.*