

January 8, 1943.

Miss Bertha G. Oxner,
Director of Women's Work,
University of Saskatchewan,
Saskatoon, Sask.

Dear Miss Oxner:

Miss Jean Forrest has asked me to give you some information on the history of early women graduates of Dalhousie University. I am enclosing several lists which have just been made up and I hope these may be of some help to you.

The first women in Arts and Science was Lillie Benn Calkin (Mrs. G. S. Carson), Arts 1881 - 83, whose present address is, 141 Roxhampton Street, Toronto. Mrs. Carson did not graduate. Among early graduates, probably the one most deserving of mention is Dr. Eliza Ritchie, who took the degree of B.L. in 1887 and who was awarded the Honorary degree of LL.D. by Dalhousie in 1927. Dr. Ritchie died in 1933.

The following extract from the minutes of the Board of Governors at Dalhousie University will no doubt be of interest to you:

"July 9, 1881.

The Chairman explained that he had called this meeting in consequence of a letter received from Mr. Calkin of Truro through the Principal, asking if ladies can be admitted into Dalhousie and if so can they compete for the Munro Bursaries. Mr. Forrest reported on behalf of those members of the Senate then in town - The Principal he said was strongly in favor of it, that Dr. Lawson and himself were of a similar opinion provided always that proper accommodation was provided and the continued presence of a Janitor in the building during class hours strictly enjoined. Mr. Munro, whilst claiming that he had placed the disposal of the Bursaries entirely in the hands of the Governors, expressed his opinion as being

January 8, 1943.

favorably disposed towards the admission of ladies to compete for them on equal terms. Resolved that application having been made to this Board on behalf of several young women for leave to matriculate and enter the College as undergraduates and it being desirable to grant such applications and to make a general regulation as to the admission of women to all the rights and privileges of this College - Be it therefore resolved, that female students shall hereafter be entitled to attend lectures and after passing the prescribed examinations to be admitted as undergraduates of this College and to compete for and take all such prizes, honors, exhibitions and bursaries as are now open to male students and to take all such degrees as are now granted by the College to male students: so that hereafter there shall be no distinction in regard to College work between male and female students. "

Yours sincerely,

Alumni Secretary.

/HJB

p.s. If there is any further information you desire, please let me know.

University of Saskatchewan

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S WORK

January 18, 1943.

Miss Helen Balcom
Alumni Secretary
Dalhousie University
Halifax, N. S.

Dear Miss Balcom:

I am much indebted to you for the very complete information you have furnished me regarding early women graduates of Dalhousie. With this as a guide I think we should be able to get much interesting information for our proposed programme.

Sincerely yours,

Bertha G. Oxner

BERTHA G. OXNER
Director of Women's Work.

NGO/NT