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EDITORIALS

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CANADIAN STUDENT VETERANS

September, 1945, saw the first stage being built in the rehabilitation of almost 20,000 Canadian Veterans. That month brought an influx of ex-servicemen to campuses throughout the country. In anticipation of the troubles that would beset them in their return to the role of civilians in college life they organized what might be considered as a national student-veterans' union. This union was named the National Conference of Canadian Student Veterans. The wisdom of the formation of the Conference became apparent shortly after the college year began. Financial troubles, housing problems, difficulties

regarding educational standards, the imminence of a shortage of work during the coming vacation months, all presented themselves to increase the ever present worries of the student veteran. To offset these very urgent problems there was convoked in Montreal on December 27 to 29 a conference of representatives of veterans from twenty-six colleges and three technical schools throughout Canada. At the conference were discussed the various problems with which the student veteran is being forced to contend. Financial troubles threaten to force many to forego any hope of benefiting from educational grants, or, in cases where the veteran is determined to remain in college despite these difficulties, cause innumerable hardships to himself or his family, in the case of the married veteran. The acute housing shortage in the different educational centres has caused the separation of the married veteran from his family, increasing his already numerous hardships, and has brought added disadvantages to the unmarried veteran. Different standards of education in the various colleges and the non-recognition of many of the smaller colleges by some of the larger institutions threatened to nullify the education being received by some veterans. The threat of a shortage of employment during the summer months is causing some worries to many veterans for they are relying on money earned during the vacation period to provide sufficient funds to enable them to return to college. In recognition of the many difficulties facing the student veteran the conference presented to the Canadian government a brief containing an enumeration of the perverse conditions under which the student veteran is working, a request for an adjustment of conditions, and several recommendations for their adjustment. The conference admitted to the great advantages enjoyed by the Canadian veteran over the veteran of other countries but at the same time stressed the urgency of an adjustment in the legislation for student veterans if the rehabilitation bill is to have any measure of success. Its recommendations were clear-cut and practicable. To provide for full employment it recommended a public works programme, the subsidization of industry, the undertaking of any other measure necessary for full employment. To ease the housing situation it proposed the renovation and use of government owned buildings for living accommodations for both married and unmarried student veterans. In cases where these buildings are located some distance from the schools the government was urged to provide for transportation. It advised that the Wartime Housing program be expanded and accelerated, that student veterans' co-operative houses be set up where possible since these had proven successful for unmarried veterans, and that the government rental

control policy be extended to board rates and room rentals. It was urged that the rental control policy be revised to effect a reduction of rentals to come within reach of the low wage earner. It made numerous proposals for emergency housing, including a government low rental building program. It presented a summarization of the students veterans' expenses which forcibly demonstrated the inadequately of the present allowances to meet veterans' requirements. An increase of \$20.00 to single veterans and \$40.00 to married veterans, which would bring the total amount to approximately the amount received by a private in the services, was proposed as being more provident for a student veteran's needs. Its proposals on education were wide and varied and among other things provided for those students who should fail the first year and would, under the present arrangement, lose their right to all future educational grants. It was urged that the student, after repeating the year at his own expense, be reinstated in his reception of the grant.

The conference emphasized the fact that only through acting on the proposals submitted in the brief can the government provide for success in the rehabilitation of the student veteran. In providing for the success of this programme the government will also lay the foundation for the building of a stronger Canada. Canada is now at her crossroads in life, now she choose the course which will decide if she is to be a progressive or retrogressive nation. In providing for the education of her thousands of young men she will build the pedestal that will serve to place her on the same level as the other great nations of the world. If she fails in this history will record that about the middle of the twentieth century Canada showed signs of becoming a great nation but faltered along the way. The national conference has proffered the light, may it serve to show the way.

PHOTO CLUB

Recently a group of students, the majority of whom were ex-servicemen, feeling the need of interesting hobbies in the life of the students at St. Dunstan's, very prudently made the object of an intense offensive the setting up of a club that would develop in students an outside interest and that would provide them with recreation away from the dull ritual of the text book. Their efforts have resulted in the formation of a Photo Club. This club is wholly intended as an extra-curricular activity and is in no way connected with any of the college courses. Lectures on the various phases of photography are of an informal na-

ture and capably delivered by one of the pioneers of the society who, having served as a photographer in the American Army Air Force, has adequate training for the task. Membership is open to all students of St. Dunstan's who have an interest in photography.

This group of students deserve commendation for their very forward and progressive action since not only will their efforts provide students with an interesting and profitable pastime but will also serve to increase the students field of knowledge. Knowledge of photography may be quite beneficial to a student when he finds himself embattled in the struggle for existence. Since the ever-widening field of phototgraphy offers great opportunity for a lucrative profession, we can well see how this inauspicious beginning may lead later to a profitable and provident means of living.

We wish the Photo Club every success in its work and it is our hope that eventually all students will avail themselves of the many advantages offered by it.

COLLEGE CHRONICLE

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His Excellency, Most Reverend James Boyle, paid a visit to the students on Thursday morning, November 14th. Following the offering of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, His Excellency spoke to the students regarding false systems of education.

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The college faculty has received a new member in the person of Reverend Thomas P. Butler. Father Butler graduated from St. Dunstan's in 1937 and then went to the Sulpician Seminary in Washington, D.C., to take his seminary course. He then joined the chaplain service of the R.C.A.F., and was stationed at Summerside for a time before proceeding overseas. He returned to Canada in September of last year and was appointed to the faculty here. Although he has been with us only a short time, he has become very popular with the students. **Red and White** takes this opportunity to welcome Father "Ted" to St. Dunstan's, and expresses the wish that his stay among us will be a happy one.