St. Dunstan's Red and White

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EDITORIALS

THE COLLEGE DRIVE

To those who have heard of it, St. Dunstan's College is a wonder. To those of us who have been in any way connected with it, St. Dunstan's is no less than a miracle. Throughout the years other institutions of learning, larger than ours, have progressed with the times, most of which progress was made possible through large donations from philanthropists and other people interested in education. Part of this progress has been made through the efforts of those connected with those institutions. St. Dunstan's too has progressed with the times, but this progress, one hundred per cent of it, has been brought about only through the superhuman efforts of the Staff and the Board of Governors. Soon it will be possible for these courageous people to view with pleasure the fruits of their labor. Through the medium of a campaign to raise funds, a sufficient sum of money was realized to make it possible for the facilities of St. Dunstan's to be enlarged sufficiently to cope with the increased demands of its students. The drive, over two hundred per cent successful, was so because of the faith of the people of the diocese in St. Dunstan's and because they had sufficient courage of their convictions to put their beliefs into action.

St. Dunstan's has been turning out educated Catholic men, and now is turning out educated Catholic men and women. Her facilities in normal times could not comfortably accommodate an enrolment of more than two hundred students. This year there are enrolled two hundred and fifty. Within a very few years that enrolment will be almost doubled. In view of these increasing demands St. Dunstan's must build. The most essential needs include a new residence, a chapel, a library, an assembly hall or auditorium, a laundry, a new dining hall, and a gymnasium, together with rehabilitation of existing facilities. Hitherto, although it made very good material for a discussion, the question of providing all this was unanswerable. Now, through the unselfish efforts and sacrifices of the good Catholics of the Diocese of Charlottetown, some of this is being made possible. This is encouragement the like of which has seldom been known to us and it certainly is most gratifying to know that people have such faith in "our college". St. Dunstan's has now been assured of her place in the field of education. You can be assured that she will hold it.

This is the only opportunity that we, the students of St. Dunstan's, have of thanking you, the people, for what you have done, and, although it is quite inadequate, we know you will understand our feelings.

Our thanks then to the people of the Diocese of Charlottetown and to all those who helped make the college drive the great success it was. Our hope is that we can be worthy of what has been done for us and so justify the faith you have in us.

S. S. S. ASSOCIATION

During the past summer, at the Annual Convention of the Catholic Women's League held at Charlottetown, the Sedes Sapientiae Scholarships Association sprang into existence. In choosing the Latin phrase, Sedes Sapientiae, instead of its English equivalent, Seat of Wisdom, the author had euphony in mind and managed a rather appealing title. The purpose of the association is the providing of scholarships to assist in financing the higher education of Catholic young women of the Province. To achieve this end the organization has plans for raising a capital fund whose interest from investments will provide scholarships in perpetuum for at least forty or fifty young women every year.

Although we always welcome any new organization of merit, yet we often forget the trials and labors experienced by those who brought it into a stage where it was finally acceptable and practicable. This organization differs from no other in respect to the work its preparation entailed. Let us then be aware of the debt of gratitude that is due Rev. J. P. E. O'Hanley, Ph.D., of the teaching staff of St. Dunstan's for his tireless and painstaking efforts. His proposal of the whole plan to the Catholic Women's League was no sudden dream; but rather it was the fruit of much intense study of the problem and many critical decisions.

To justify the existence of this organization we need merely review briefly what has been done in respect to higher education in the past. For many years scholarships have been available for young men and the good accomplished by them is evident, yet incalculable. It may be a sorry reflection on our economic life; but we must admit that, if those scholarships were not at hand, many of our young men would have been denied the privilege of a college education. But for the other section of our youth, the young women, there wasn't any such provision. The education of a young man was more important perhaps; but it certainly didn't warrant the focusing of all attention on the higher education of young men and neglecting the young women entirely.

Perhaps this new Scholarships Association is born at an opportune moment. Today the higher education of young women is more encouraged and just a short time ago St. Dunstan's College threw open her doors to young women. Now, co-education here is no longer an experiment. It is a reality. While the number of co-eds is yet small, there are many Catholic young women of splendid ability just waiting for that extra financial aid that makes a full college course possible for them.

Looking into the future we can easily visualize what an improvement in the religious and social life of our Catholic people would be realized in having highly educated Catholic women in all parts of the Province, presiding over homes, engaged in teaching, and playing a leading part in all our parish, community, and civic activities. And all this is possible if we are honestly aware of our duties which may

be found in a clear and forceful statement of Bishop Boyle, "Education of Catholic youth claims priority rights on the hearts of all."

The news of the S. S. S. Association was favorably received by the students of St. Dunstan's College and they are raising a subscription which now promises to be worthwhile. Taking this as a criterion of the response to the appeal of the Association, we feel confident of its success. But when we note that the Sedes Sapientiae Scholarships Association has so wisely chosen the Mother of God as its Heavenly Patroness and operating under the motto, "The love of Christ impels us", we are yet more confident of its success.

EX-SERVICE MEN

In common with other colleges across Canada, the enrolment of students at St. Dunstan's has been increased by the return of service men. "They have had it", as their popular expression goes, and it must have been with glad feelings that they bade farewell to so uncertain a life and are again free to resume their civilian roles. No doubt they find the old environment changed, but the manly way in which they are making the transition back to civilian life is a source of much pride to both the college and their friends.

Although much is known of their courage and devotion to duty, something of their arduous tasks in the various branches of service, and what sacrifice of time they made, we know that words are feeble medium of expressing our appreciation to them for their splendid contribution to the struggle for freedom. Some of them we knew before, others are new to us at St. Dunstan's; but for all there is a friendly welcome and a sincere "thank you" for a job well done.

When we turn to our Honor Roll our rejoicing is tempered by a touch of sadness. As we count the little black crosses, we think of those who have made the great sacrifice; and we share with their relatives and friends a common sorrow for so great a loss. We remember them as true christian men charged with the spirit of St. Dunstan's and worthy to bear the torch of freedom; and, as such, they will not be forgotten.

CO-EDS AGAIN

Once again co-eds have returned to St. Dunstan's and in greater strength than before. Instead of the former six, there are now fifteen. It would be needless to re-echo the sentiments their presence evoked from the student body; but it was a hearty welcome with every wish that their life here would be pleasant and successful.

If one of us could take their place for even a short time, we might be better able to appreciate the fears they entertain for life in this new environment. But even if life is not all sunshine for them, they will soon discover that the boys are deeply interested in their success. (It is rumored that some of them have experienced that solicitude already.)

With the hope of getting the most out of college life they knew that they must become an integral part of college life in all its phases and cheerfully became identified with most of the extra-class activities. Where they cannot participate, as in football, etc., they are seen on the sidelines displaying a keen interest in the sport and shouting a team to victory.

We find them on executives, and glancing through this magazine you will find that they are really in there fighting.

With such a start they will surely make their presence felt more and more as time goes on. And we feel that their influence will be a beneficial factor in college life.

COLLEGE CHRONICLE

For the past six years, the war years, the Chronicle Editor of Red and White chronicled items of interest concerning students and former students. Very often this was bad news. Deaths had to be recorded, deaths caused by one of the grimmest struggles history has ever known. Many St. Dunstan's men fought in this struggle, yes, many gave up their lives in it. Such news Red and White was forced to bring its readers. The Chronicle Editor this year has a much more pleasant task. He writes of the events of students from whom the shadow of war has been removed. and over whom lies a feeling of peace and quiet. Red and White joins with the rest of the world in thanking God for this long-awaited peace, and prays Him that all her children may justly experience all the blessings and joys of the post-war world.

Realizing that education is one of the surest roads to peaceful living, students have flocked to St. Dunstan's from all parts of the country, so that St. Dunstan's finds herself this year with the largest enrollment in her history. Each of the Maritime provinces is represented among the students with a goodly number of French Canadians from Quebec. There are also some representatives from Maine and Massachusetts.