

Every Newfoundlander hopes that the Government of Canada will recognize its duties and obligations in this regard, and we are optimistic that the revision of the Terms of Union will enable all Newfoundlanders to have the benefits which they now have a right to expect as citizens of the Dominion of Canada.

—BOB DOYLE '59—

### SCHOOLS IN HONG KONG

Those who attended the lecture of Miss Reid on November 4th, 1956, certainly had a glimpse of this island of freedom, Hong Kong, which stands only a few yards outside the bamboo curtain. It would be, therefore, very interesting for us to know something more about this place.

Since I am a student, I think it is fitting and proper for me to describe the schools of Hong Kong in general. First of all, what are the schools there like?

There are, in general, two kinds of schools distinct from each other in the languages used for lectures, namely, the Chinese and the English schools; and this is true only for high schools. As there is only one university in Hong Kong, I shall treat it separately.

It is obvious that there must be some differences between the two kinds of schools. What are they then?

Chinese children usually go to the Chinese schools. At the age of four or five, they are usually sent to the kindergarten, if their parents can afford the expense. After going through a two-year course in the kindergarten they enter the primary school. The training they receive there is basically the same as here in Canada. It takes them a total of six years to cover the Primary school course. After that they enter the Middle School (High School). There are, also, six years in the Middle School—the first three years are called the Juniors and the second three years, the Seniors. The first three years do not matter too much, but during the next three years the students have to work very hard; for at the end of them, there is a public examination given by the Education Department; and certificates are distributed to the successful candidates. To pass this examination one has to acquire a minimum of five subjects, the Chinese language, a second language (usually English), mathematics, a science, and a social subject. the graduates are, then fitted to attend colleges. (Those who wish to enter the Hong Kong University must go through the matriculation class in the English schools which will be discussed later.) These schools are privately owned, except one which comes directly under the Education Department. So much for the Chinese schools.

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The English schools, unlike those Chinese ones, can again be subdivided into several groups: (1) the government schools, (2) the granted schools, (3) the subsidized schools, (4) the private schools. The government schools are directly under the Education Department and there are, up to now, only four high schools of this kind. The granted schools are those which are financially helped by the government, i.e., they collect some fees, but usually far less than sufficient to run the school; and the Government comes over to balance their budgets. Then come the subsidized schools, which are supported mainly by the philanthropists. And lastly, the private schools which are by far the most expensive ones.

The school system is more or less the same as the Chinese schools except that the students in their high school have English as their first language. They have also, two years of kindergarten, six years primary school, but only five years high school. Instead of being called "Grades" the classes in high school are divided into "Forms", that is, Form 1 to Form 5. At the end of the fifth Form, the students have to sit for a public examination called the School Leaving Certificate Examination. This examination differs from the one of the Chinese schools by having English as the main language. A candidate must pass a minimum of five subjects written at one and the same examination. If anyone fails in the English language, he is an absolute failure. The graduates, with this certificate, are then able either to continue their studies or to go to work. There are no supplementary examinations whatsoever for these unlucky failures. What they have to do is either to stay in school for one more year and sit for the same examinations again or just simply to quit and go to work. The fifth Form of these schools is equivalent to Grade Eleven of the Canadian schools. In order to enter Kong Hong U., one has to attend Form 6 which is called the Matriculation Class. Then if you can pass the university entrance examination successfully—of which a minimum pass of five subjects in the ordinary level and two subjects in the advanced level, you will be a freshman in the Hong Kong U. The requirements of the advanced subjects will depend on what faculty you are going to follow. Of the five subjects in the ordinary level English language, a second language, Mathematics, one science, and a social subject are required.

I would like very much to tell here everything about Hong Kong University, since it is one of the most famous universities in the Far East. But unfortunately I did not have the chance to attend even Form Six, so I can say only that H.K.U. has, somehow or other, the same educational system as that in England. For this reason, students who are eligible to attend H.K.U. are also qualified for more than forty leading universities in England. And as in most universities in the world, a four year course leads to the Bachelor's Degree. Its maximum capacity is nine hundred, and during the recent years, the freshman class increased from 150 to 260.



We were told by Miss Reid that the population in Hong Kong is close to three million. Therefore, there must be a very large number of children of school age. Are there enough schools for them? The answer is negative. At the beginning of this year, a report of the Hong Kong Social Welfare Department said that there were roughly some 50,000 children who reached school age but yet did not have a chance to learn even how to read and write. This is, no doubt, a very serious problem in the view of education and social progress, for an illiterate person will do more harm than good, especially in such a complicated society as that of Hong Kong! The future of Hong Kong, from the social point of view, is not very promising. But, reality has to be faced. The educated people of Hong Kong, I hope, will not overlook so striking a fact which will affect them all.

—FREDY—

Alfred Tsang, '60

### ON WHOM WAS THE JOKE

'Twas the eve before All-Saints,  
And all through the Hall,  
The Polisher was going—  
And duster and all.  
When floors were shining  
The Co-eds did go  
To the Chapel for Benediction  
As was their wont to do.

On returning to the Hall  
They heard a strange music,  
"I think we have visitors"  
Said Aker to Cusack.  
They opened the door with joy in their hearts  
And were greeted with squawks,  
And with snorts and with clarts.

"Leave your cards, you villians,  
Before you go away,"  
And the three renowned visitors  
Were prompt to obey.  
The stench penetrated both upstairs and down,  
And the face of each Co-ed wore an angry frown.

Doreen being the Senior, felt 'twas her place  
To restore order to Chaos,  
And at once she gave chase.

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