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## UNIVERSITY EXTENSION IN CANADA.

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COMPARATIVELY little University Extension work has been done in Canada, yet it cannot be said that the movement is an entirely new one in the Dominion; the scheme has been carried on in a moderate way for more than twenty years by at least two of our universities.

Dr. Johnston, of McGill University, stated at a public meeting in 1891 that twenty years previous McGill University organized classes at Montreal and that they were successfully continued for thirteen years. And Sir Daniel Wilson, principal of Toronto University, stated on the same occasion that they organized at Toronto a movement for the higher education of women and after three or four years of successful work their friends in Montreal imitated their example. This indicates about twenty-six or seven years since the scheme was first begun at Toronto.

Whether this antedates the beginning of the movement in England I am not aware, but it is interesting to note how closely the lines followed in these two instances agree with those upon which the movement is now so largely conducted in England and the United States.

In Montreal there was an association of ladies who had a guarantee fund which could be called upon at any time in case of an emergency, but Dr. Johnston tells us that it was never found necessary to draw upon it. The committee made a regular canvass each year and when sure of a sufficiently large audience lectures were asked for. Only women attended, because ladies were not at that time admitted to the university. The courses were in such subjects as English Literature, Chemistry, Astronomy, etc., and consisted of ten lectures in each. The lecturers were paid fixed sums

for each course. Out of 150 people attending, 120 would be only auditors, they did not ask questions and were not examined as the students were. The lectures were the regular university lectures, and certificates were given to those who passed successful examinations. These courses were discontinued, probably when it was decided to admit ladies to the university.

In the case of Toronto the work was managed by a committee of gentlemen and was so successful that they were crowded out of the Canadian Institute and obtained the use of a large hall from the Provincial Government. The work was carried on as at Montreal with this difference that the professors of Toronto University gave their lectures without any charge, but at length the ladies, after paying all other expenses, would hand them a bonus each year. They adopted the same examinations as those of the university and gave certificates of the results. It was so thoroughly organized that they handed it over to a committee of ladies. An elderly lady acted as secretary and a grandchild took ill in the middle of the work and the whole thing collapsed. It is strange that a life so vigorous should so easily be extinguished.

This was all years ago and there seems to be very little connection between it and the present movement, but it shows that University Extension is a natural and spontaneous outgrowth with us and one which, when properly organized, is likely to live and develop.

After the collapse of the work referred to the University Extension idea seems to have remained dormant in Canada until the year 1891, when, in May of that year, at a meeting of the Royal Society of Canada, held at Montreal, the Rev. Abbé Laflamme, D. D., of Laval University and vice-president of the Royal Society, delivered a very able address on the importance of University Extension work and strongly urged the advisability of a scheme for Canada on the lines adopted in England and the States. This essay was immediately afterward translated, published and sent

abroad in pamphlet form by our well-known Canadian historian, William Kingsford, LL. D., at his own expense and from pure public spirit.

Following this, in November of the same year, the Hon. G. W. Ross, Minister of Education for Ontario, called a public meeting at Toronto to discuss the question of starting a scheme for the Extension of University teaching in Canada. Representatives of the leading universities and other institutions of learning in Ontario, together with three professors from McGill University, Montreal, were present. The minister himself occupied the chair and explained that he had convened the meeting, because of his interest in the subject and not because he desired, as minister of education, to control the movement, which he thought should be to a large extent voluntary, if not wholly so; that he had invited Professor James, of the University of Pennsylvania, one of the most prominent men connected with the movement in the United States to be present and give his experience and suggestions. Professor James, in his address, went most thoroughly into all the details of the system and gave an exhaustive account of the advantages to be derived from it. Then followed the other speakers; each one of whom seemed to have his own peculiar view as to the shape the movement should take and the measure of success it was likely to meet with in Canada. The main point of controversy appears to have been as to whether the movement should stand entirely free from any other institution or be under the control of the universities. It seems to have been finally agreed that the universities should have a controlling interest. A constitution was accordingly drawn up and adopted and an association formed to be known as the Canadian Association for the Extension of University Teaching.

A meeting of the council was held two months later when executive and sub-committees and officers were appointed. The officers were as follows: President, Sir Donald Smith, Chancellor of McGill University, Montreal; vice-presidents, the Hon. Edward Blake, Chancellor of Toronto University;

Senator Allan, Toronto; Sanford Fleming, C. M. G., Chancellor Queen's University, Ottawa; L'Abbé Laflamme, of Laval University, and Goldwin Smith, D.C. L., Toronto; secretary, William Houston, M. A., Toronto. Here ended the whole business so far as that great association is concerned; not a meeting nor a move of any kind has since taken place. What deepens the mystery about this sudden abandonment of the movement by that society is that there was scarcely a dissenting voice at the convention as to the ultimate success of the scheme. Principal Grant, of Queen's, was the only one who saw any obstacle in the way. He pointed out that the greatest difficulty would be in getting enough lecturers, etc. Yet, curious as it may seem, Queen's is the only university of all those represented at the convention, which is to-day doing any work outside of its own city. Toronto University did, I am informed, undertake a course at Hamilton on a certain subject shortly after the inauguration of the general society and one in Toronto, but both were abandoned owing to limited staff, and a miscellaneous series of lectures given instead. In Montreal the Y. M. C. A. Centre organized a class last year and Professor Cox, of McGill University, delivered twelve lectures on "Energy in Nature," with an audience of 110, of whom six passed an examination, one with distinction. The Teachers' Association of McGill Normal School organized another class of about eighty, to whom Professor McGee lectured on English Literature, two candidates passed the examination, one with distinction. This year the only course going on in Montreal is one on "Electricity" and it is given in the McGill Physics Building by Professor Cox. The University of New Brunswick commenced at St. John, N. B., in October, 1891, and has given thirteen courses with an average attendance of twenty-five or thirty. The charge per course, the first year, was one dollar; last year, two dollars and fifty cents per course, but finding the attendance much smaller than formerly they returned to the one dollar plan. The subjects treated last year were Electricity, Chemistry and English

Literature. The revenue balanced the expenditure, but the lecturers gave their services free.

The movement in Ottawa received its first inspiration from Abbé Laflamme's essay before referred to, a copy of which found its way into the hands of Mr. R. H. Cowley, B. A., of the Provincial Normal School staff, who, early in the fall of 1891, wrote to Principal Grant, of Queen's, and obtained his consent to try a course as an experiment. A committee was at once formed with Dr. Thorburn, chairman and Mr. Cowley, secretary. The first meeting was held in the City Hall and was attended by about three hundred of the leading citizens and was addressed by Lord Stanley, the late Governor-General, Principal Grant, Sir James Grant and Professors Shortt and Cappon. About seventy joined the English Literature class and about forty-five that on Political Science. The tickets were sold at five dollars for one course and eight dollars for two courses, and after paying expenses the balance was handed to the lecturers. The lectures given in each case were the regular university lectures, and the students were so pleased that they expressed their desire that the courses should be continued the next year. During this experimental course, Mr. Cowley was obliged to move to another locality where he found it impossible to attend to the duties of his office; the movement thus lost its secretary and organizer and with him much of its vigor.

Before undertaking another course it was considered advisable to communicate with the Central Organization at Toronto, and to work according to the rules laid down by that body for the guidance of local centres; letters were accordingly addressed to the General Secretary, but no reply was received nor could any person be found who had sufficient interest in either the General Association or the movement to give any information or to even acknowledge receipt of the letters.

The committee then called a public meeting to discuss the question of continuing the work independently of the General Association. At this meeting a new committee was

appointed and the present local association formed. It was decided to continue the work on the lines first adopted and courses of lectures were arranged for 1892-93, as follows: The Higher Criticism of the New Testament by Principal Grant; English Literature by Professor Cappon, M. A.; Political Science by Professor Shortt, M. A., all of Queen's. Principal Grant gave his course free, but his students were charged the same fees as those of the other classes. The charges were five dollars for a single course, eight dollars for two, and ten dollars for the three courses. The attendance was as follows; Higher Criticism, thirty-three (fifteen ladies and eighteen gentlemen); English Literature, twenty-seven (seventeen ladies and ten gentlemen); Political Science, twenty-two (eight ladies and fourteen gentlemen); in all eighty-two (forty ladies and forty-two gentlemen). Only four presented themselves for examination, three in English Literature, and one in Higher Criticism. The percentage of marks received was creditable. They wrote on the regular examination papers of the university. At the end of the term there was a deficit of about \$200, \$100 of which was subscribed by the committee and a few friends, and steps were being taken to raise the balance, but the professors very generously accepted \$100 each, instead of \$150 each as agreed upon, and thus relieved the committee of further responsibility in the matter.

From the experience gained it was clear to the committee that means would have to be adopted either to largely increase the attendance at lectures or to raise an endowment or other fund. In the fall of 1893, a circular was accordingly sent to each member of the former classes and to other citizens naming the subjects and the lecturers proposed for next session, and requesting them to send in the names of all those who desired to attend, indicating at the same time the course preferred (the committee had in mind the undertaking of only one—the most popular—course). In the meantime a public meeting was called to discuss the difficulties and advantages of the movement. This meeting was

attended by over a thousand citizens, and speeches were delivered by His Excellency the Governor-General; Dr. Thorburn, the president of the association; Dr. J. A. Maccabe, representing the Minister of Education of Ontario; Rev. W. T. Herridge and the Rev. Dr. G. M. Grant, principal of Queen's University. At the conclusion of his eloquent and forcible address Lord Aberdeen announced that he would give a bronze medal to the candidate in each subject who passed the most successful examination at the termination of each course.

A sufficient number of students signified their intention of taking the lectures to warrant the undertaking of three courses, and arrangements were immediately made for the continuation of English Literature and Political Science by Professors Cappon and Shortt, of Queen's, and a course in Electricity by Professor Cox, of McGill. The two former are now going on with an attendance in English of over a hundred, and in Political Science of about forty-five. Electricity was to start early in January, but owing to pressure of work at the university Professor Cox was obliged to postpone his lectures to the middle of March. The attendance at this course is expected to be large.

Queen's has established a special degree for University Extension students, being equivalent to first year honors in two subjects. This degree will be accepted by the university *pro tanto* in work for the Bachelor of Arts degree. The advantage of this to extra mural students is very considerable; by taking the Licentiate of Arts degree they may go on to the Bachelor of Arts by taking one, two or more subjects each year until all the subjects of that course are passed. The increased interest in the work this year is largely due to this concession on the part of the university. The reduction in fees too, this year (three dollars for a single ticket and eight dollars for a family) has brought the lectures within reach of a greater number and had it been still lower the receipts would not perhaps have been less and many more might have been benefited. The object of University Extension should not

only be to bring higher education to the doors of those who are not able to go to the universities, but to bring it to the doors of as many as possible, and the way to accomplish this is to place tickets at the lowest consistent figure. Where the places of meeting are sufficiently commodious, the fees might be proportionately low without diminishing—indeed, in many cases, increasing—the revenue of the centre. Experience, however, is the best guide in adjusting the fees and even then there is always an element of approximation; what would suffice one year might fall very short in another even in the treatment of the same subject under apparently the same conditions, so that it is always desirable to have a guarantee fund at the back of every centre.

Last fall a subscription list was placed in the hands of each member of the committee here with the following heading :

“ We, the undersigned, hereby agree to contribute the sum set opposite our respective signatures, as a guarantee fund, to assist the University Extension Association of Ottawa, in carrying on University Extension teaching in Ottawa ; the same to be paid in full or in part as may be shown to be required to meet actual expenses.” And no difficulty has been experienced in getting the subscribers required.

The action of the Ontario government in placing the free use of rooms in its school buildings throughout the province at the disposal of University Extension, is very commendable, and affords the movement in Ontario an advantage in this way over that in many other places. The Ottawa Association enjoys the use of a large lecture-room in the Normal School building free of charge including heating and lighting.

So much has been said and written regarding University Extension and the working classes, that one would be almost out of order in concluding an article of any length without attempting to say something on that point.

Pains were taken here at the very outset to bring University Extension before the working men. Each year members

of the committee have visited their lodges, union and council meetings, offered reduced rates, representation on the committee and in short everything that could be done with reason has been done, but all without inciting the slightest interest. The delegates were always courteously received and attentively listened to, but so far as any practical result is concerned, the effect was equal to that of throwing water on a drowned mouse. There is a reason for this apathy on the part of the working classes, and I should like to say something on this particular phase of the subject, but, as I have already exceeded the space allotted, I shall leave it for some future occasion.

T. J. MACLAUGHLIN.

*Ottawa, February 17, 1894.*

## EDITORIAL.

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The present midwinter term has been characterized by great activity among the Local Centres conducting University Extension lecture courses under the direction of the American Society. The work has been maintained with vigor among the centres already established, and has also been pushed forward into many new places. The total number of centres having courses this term reaches forty-five; these engaged forty-eight series, aggregating 275 lectures. The character of the courses chosen varies from that of last fall's term work. Thirty-one courses in Literature and ten in History were arranged; whereas seventeen and fifteen represent the disposition of the Literature and History courses last fall. One course was given on Civics, two on Electricity and four on Political Economy. Fourteen New Local centres have been established: Atlantic City, N. J., Bradford, Carlisle, Clearfield, Dunkirk, N. Y., Muncy, New Wilmington, Sewickley, Tarrytown, N. Y., Yardley and the Central High School, Hestonville, Nicetown, and Peirce's School of Business in Philadelphia. Another "twelve town circuit" has been formed this term in the western and central portions of Pennsylvania, by Dr. W. Clarke Robinson, one of the most energetic Extension lecturers in the United States. Dr. Robinson, it will be remembered, conducted an equally large circuit in the same region of the State last fall. His present circuit consists of the following places: Bradford, Dunkirk, Erie, Franklin, Greenville, Grove City, New Castle, New Wilmington, Oil City, Sewickley, Warren, Waynesburg. Five of these were in his last circuit. Dr. Robinson lectures on "English Poets" and "Shakespeare."







