

UNIVERSITY HAS SEEN MANY CHANGES

Inception Dated 158 Years Ago

(Most of the information in this article was obtained from the writer's book, "The History of Central New Brunswick" pub'd 1937, from Berton's Consolidated Statutes of New Brunswick, and from an interview with Dr. C. C. Jones.)

The University of New Brunswick has had many ups and downs of prosperity in its long history, and has seen many changes, in name, in aims and objects, in locality, and in buildings. The College's inception was dated 158 years ago when a memorial, signed by influential inhabitants of the new province, was addressed to our first governor for "an Academy or school of liberal arts and sciences". This petition, dated December, 1785, hangs in the library of the University.

On March the 8th of the following year the trustees laying out Fredericton resolved that the lots about the town plat be "sold at Public Auction to be conveyed in fee simple as a ground rent reserved forever. And the revenue so from time to time obtained to be applied to and for the use of an Academy or College to be erected and supported at Fredericton for the education of youth - - - and for the salaries and maintenance of the several preceptors or teachers" (Fredericton Town Book, N.B. Crown Land Office).

The first college building was described by Lt. Govr. Thomas Carleton in a letter which he wrote to the Colonial Minister on March 9th, 1793:—"Sending a draught of a charter for a college— At present there are 17 scholars— The trustees have purchased a handsome lot of one acre of ground,—with a new well built house consisting of a school room of 18 by 36 feet, a convenient kitchen and five lodging rooms". This building was on Brunswick street on a lot that ran through the block to George Street; the second lot above the C.N.R. railway.

The land, the leases of which were

sold at auction in 1786 for the support of a college, surrounded the town in a horse-shoe, some 6,000 acres in extent, running from the river above Smythe street, back of George street, and to the river again below Sunbury street, now University Ave. However, the ground rents from these lands were insufficient and Lt. Govr. Carleton fruitlessly tried to get a grant of money and a charter of incorporation from the Mother country, he asking that the same (1000 pounds), be done for New Brunswick as was done for King's College, Nova Scotia (Carleton letters). The N.B. Government helped in the year 1793 with a yearly grant of 200 pounds, and on Feb. 12th, 1800, the charter of the College of New Brunswick was at last signed, and its extensive lands were regranted to the College.

But a fly was found in the ointment of consecration, as it were. The Privy Council of England discovered that, "An Act of Parliament made and passed in the 13th year of the Reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth whereby Colleges are restrained from making any conveyances of their possessions other than for the term of Twenty-one Years". The Charter of Incorporation was to be surrendered but was to remain in force until a new charter was granted, and the College could not sell its land leases.

When the 21 years had passed an application for the surrender of the charter was made, and quoting from the New Brunswick Statutes of that year, 1823:—"During the administration of Lt. Governor Carleton the College of New Brunswick was established and incorporated with power to confer degrees in the Liberal Arts and Sciences in the same manner as they are conferred by the universities of England; that until very lately the funds and state of the Corporation were such as to prevent the petitioners from attempting to put the Institution into

anything like a College form; that an attempt has recently been made to reorganize the College and a President was accordingly appointed— Be it further enacted that should His Majesty be graciously pleased to favour this Province with such a Charter" (the new charter), "His said Majesty shall be deemed the Founder of the College". Thus King's College got its name. The old Charter was surrendered Nov. 18th, 1823, and the new Act was confirmed March 10th, 1824. King George gave a yearly grant of 1000 pounds, the N.B. Government gave 1100 pounds, and Sir Howard Douglas gave 100 pounds to invest for a yearly medal. Also the Act of 1823 ruled that the ground rents of the college lots should be increased four-fold, probably to make up for those years when financial business could not be performed.

The College received another grant of land, the city block bounded by Carleton, King, Regent and Brunswick streets, and in 1816 the idea of erecting the College buildings there was considered. The Odell letter book). Fortunately this was given up, probably from shortage of money. With the time approaching for the new charter, Sir Howard Douglas used his influence to have it enacted that the College should be opened to all denominations though the control must be that of the Church of England. In considering a site for the new permanent stone building the property of the present Frogmore, back of the town, was considered but could not be bought; then the present situation was purchased from Amasa Coy, president of the Fredericton Bank. The College had sold many of the rear lots directly back of the town. The architect of the building was J. E. Woolforde who had come from England as architect for the new Government House. The corner stone was laid by Sir Howard Douglas on Sept. 12th, 1826, and on Jan. 1st, 1829 the building was formally opened by the Governor as the first Chancellor. The building was then of the two stories only, with kitchen and dining-room in the basement, the boys' dormitories being on the second floor, and the chapel, where morning prayers were said, being the room on the east of the front door. "College Road" was opened from the end of Charlotte street and a gate-house for the caretaker was erected at the entrance to the property. Rev. Dr. Jacobs, the President, who had a farm at Nashwaaksis, built himself a tiny cottage at the foot of the hill, "Oxford Cottage", which is still occupied.

The history of King's College was involved with the fight for Responsible Government and liberal procedures. Bills were brought up in the Assembly to do away with the College or turn it into an agricultural school. Its continued existence was due mainly to two members of the Assembly, Charles Fisher and W. H. ("Billy") Needham, and to the respect for the professors who took a large part in the town's activities. The Rev. Dr. Jacob acted as parson in the town and Principal of the Collegiate School. Joseph Marshall, Baron D'Avray was Principal of the Teachers' Training School as well as teacher of modern languages at the College, whilst James Robb M.D., professor of natural science, was perhaps the greatest benefactor in the way of promoter, that this province ever had. Coming to New Brunswick in 1837, when the Province was in a state of depression in the 1840's, he organized the "New Brunswick Society for Agriculture, Home Manufacture and Commerce", small local societies throughout the Province, published and scattered numerous booklets in English and in French, travelled thousands of miles about the country, and promoted the first Provincial Board of Agriculture, of which he was the first secretary. He was offered a chair in Edinburgh University but refused it because he thought he was needed in New Brunswick. Dr. Robb founded the museum and the library of the College with material he had brought from Europe and gathered from U.S.A. and New

Brunswick.

Following the coming in of Responsible Government King's College was reorganized and in 1859 became the University of New Brunswick. It was no longer under the jurisdiction of the Church of England and Dr. Jacob retired to give place to Dr. Brydone-Jack as President. In the long period before the end of the century the University advanced slowly in the size of its attendance. Dr. Loring Bailey ("Skim"), a pupil of Agassiz, beloved of the students, added many specimens to the museum.

A University Calendar of the year 1864 shows that the Associated Alumni was organized May 14th, 1863, with the Rev. Wm. Scovil, M.A., first president; that the college course encompassed three years and there was no sophomore class; that the year began Sept. 1st and ended June 29th; that the yearly expenses for students in residence were,

Board for 40 weeks at \$2.50 per week, \$100.00; Tuition fees, \$16.00; Text books, \$9.00; Subscription for library, \$1.00; for Plate, .50c; Fuel and light, \$13.00; Washing, \$8.00; Gymnasium, \$1.00; Total, \$148.00.

The University Monthly was first published in 1865 with (Sir) Geo. E. Foster, editor-in-chief, and (Lt. Govr.) Wm. Pubsley, manager. It ran for a year and was not published again until 1879 (W. M. Clark). In 1872 a third story was built on the old building thus making a place for the library and the museum. The first cannon, a small brass one, came to light in 1876 when W. O. Raymond, Chalmers Jack and G. W. Mersereau were playing croquet on a lawn at the northeast corner of York and Charlotte streets and accidentally hit the buried muzzle. They obtained wheels from a carriage factory and hauled it up to College.

Dr. Harrison became President the latter part of the century, and the writer's clearest memory of him is of him rushing from his rooms in gown, carpet slippers and habitual silk hat, at a time a "scrag" was taking place on the hall floor, the President exclaiming, "Gentlemen, Gentlemen, this is disgraceful", and scattering "fines" right and left. These were perhaps the junior and sophomore classes who, in the wooden gym which formerly stood on the site of the 'old' gym, had an argument and tug-of-war over the payment of the canvas blanket for tossing. The argument ended with the remnant of the blanket and the boys in the brook at the foot of the hill, at freshet height. A bridge crossed the highway before the stream was diverged. Caps and gowns were compulsory at lectures and were worn on the street and at church.

In 1885 (Dr.) Mary K. Tibbits discovered that there was nothing in the Calendar to prohibit women students, so became the first female at the U.N.B.

The close of the century brought the centenary celebration, and a new building, the Engineering Building. Dr. Harrison procured the money for this through the offices of Chief Justice Barker who arranged for the accumulated Madrasah School monies to be turned over. There

was also a small government grant.

The greatest period of advancement was made during the presidency of Dr. C. C. Jones under whom the attendance rose from about 75 to a peak of 400. The Forestry course was introduced in 1907 and the Law Faculty in 1923, and the campus soon became surrounded by buildings. The first was the Memorial Hall with its beautifully finished Assembly Hall. This building was put up at the expense of graduates and friends of the University as a memorial to 35 students who had given their lives in the First World War. Brody of St. John was the architect. The Lady Beaverbrook Building, the next to go up, was also a memorial, to Lady Beaverbrook, at a cost of \$300,000. Alward & Gillies the architects. The Forestry and Geology Building was put up at the expense of the N.B. Government, Mott being the architect as he was also of the fire-proof Library Building, also erected by the Government. The library was planned by Dr. Jones and furnished by the beneficence of the late Charles Veill.

Just before the present war the construction of the Gymnasium began and we have now what is considered the finest structure of its kind in eastern Canada. Another gift from Lord Beaverbrook. Alward & Gillies were again the architects. The Beaverbrook scholarships, seven of them, worth \$500 a year for those in residence and \$400 for those outside, to last for the four years, is another proof of our New Brunswick peer's great generosity.

In 1937 the greatest honor possible came to our University, the coming to it of our King George and His Gracious Queen Elizabeth.

Now we have a new President, another provincial benefactor, under whom detailed improvements of the University are being carried out, such as landscape gardening, redecorating, a water system and fire protection.

LILLIAN M. MAXWELL.

NOBANONARTS

At the special meeting of the National Conference of Canadian Universities, attended by President MacKenzie on January 8th in Ottawa, the status of the liberal arts students in Canadian universities and colleges was discussed. Present on invitation were the Deputy Minister of Labour and representatives of National Selective Service and The Wartime Bureau of Technical Personnel. The meeting was purely one of discussion on the policies of the Government with regard to students, and no momentous developments were revealed. The outstanding results of the meeting were the approval of the Government's "enlightened policy with regard to the maintenance of higher education" and the decision to co-operate with the government in any further adjustments in this policy. It was also decided to request the Government that arts students preparing for the teaching profession

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