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EDITORIAL - the last one

This is the last issue of the BRUNSWICKAN for this term. It is also the last issue for the present editor. The occasion is therefore ripe for reflection.

Our President Dr. Trueman, delivered a fine and stirring speech at the Inauguration ceremonies earlier this fall in which he stressed the lack of balance in present-day education, especially at the university level. This editor, over the past few weeks, has come to understand how this unbalance has shown itself on this campus.

Several groups and individuals have been vocal over the "political" issue of a few weeks ago and the reverberations are still being felt. Just last week a report from a Foresters meeting contained an accusation against the BRUNSWICKAN for not printing the whole news but only news which had a "political hue". Whether or not this points to the unbalance in education existing here, it does show that this group of students does not read a newspaper carefully. Besides it is evident that this group must be educated to the fact that what goes into a paper is determined by its news value and if a report of a previous Foresters Meeting did not warrant space ahead of other news, then it was unfortunate.

Another item which appeared in the BRUNSWICKAN recently also supports the fact that an editor is not a censor. The item in question was the SRC reply to Mr. Cogswell's letter in a previous issue. In that reply the Secretary of the SRC referred to two reports of an SRC meeting in the BRUNSWICKAN: the one biased, the other unbiased. Here again there seems to be a lack of knowledge on the part of the student executive. There was only one news report in the BRUNSWICKAN concerning the SRC meeting in question. The other "report" was an editorial. There is a difference between the two as the SRC was informed by the President. An editorial is, by its very nature, always biased. An editorial is an opinion and therefore differs from other opinions and so it is biased. If the SRC wishes the BRUNSWICKAN to become another Pravda, which its appointment of news reporters would tend to indicate, then all accounts of meetings would be biased - naturally in favour of the SRC.

The recent meeting of the Junior and Senior classes also exhibited the inflexibility of a one-track mind. The presence of a number of Foresters at this meeting apparently set the stage for the Forestry meeting mentioned above. If those people haranguing about the "political" content of the BRUNSWICKAN could see what appears in the other Canadian University student publications, then they would have no fears of the BRUNSWICKAN'S circulation to other universities. As an example, a recent issue of the University of Western Ontario Gazette carried a caption under a picture of MacKenzie King, calling him the "GRAND OLD HEAD of the evasive hesitant party". From the tone of the rest of the article the words were not written in adoration of our ex-Prime Minister.

(Continued on Page 6)

Student's Forum

This space is provided for any student wishing to express his views on any subject. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent Brunswickan policy. Any opposing views will be printed in this space and not as letters to the Editor.

EAST PRESSES WEST

by D. B. McLean, Senior Forester

Through failure to distinguish between the true original causes of present day phenomena and those symbols of the present time which are merely associated incidentally with such phenomena, a society may become like the host which is being attacked by a deadly parasite but does not yet know it; great nations of the past have repeatedly succumbed to such parasites which, had they been recognized, would not likely have been able to destroy those nations. A society, through near sightedness, may be induced to believe that desirable effects result from things of the present day which they actually exist in spite of, and that they are in spite of more remote causes which are their true foundation.

Civilization is nothing more than an accumulation of tradition. The present condition of life of a people depends upon the accumulation by all the generations of its forbearers, of a heritage of strategic position and of the tradition of knowledge (and wisdom) which is recorded in the language it speaks; the person today who speaks (and reads) English has access to a larger portion of the sum total of human knowledge than the speaker of any other language on earth - probably not even excluding Germanic though in the modern state of literature in English speaking countries, just as in the latter days of Rome or of Greece, we may have to dig far back (even several centuries) to get at the best knowledge which is recorded in our mother tongue.

The great wealth and prosperity which have been characteristic of English speaking countries (and every one of them has attained a standard of prosperity unequalled by any other country outside of northern Europe) accrue from the achievements of Englishmen even long prior to the conquest of those great sub-continent upon which the newer English speaking nations are built. However, the increasing incident of degeneracy in morals, literature and art (including the burlesque which is the so called modern American music) attests to the influence upon our opinions of people far removed from the type of Englishmen described above. And even in the mother country there are today many, having little in common with these older Englishmen, who are attempting to trade upon the prestige and to assume the honour associated with a form of speech connected with men of a different calibre. All of this is so reminiscent of latter day Rome as to the constitute a really grave warning to us.

In these days of dedication to the new, to "progress", and of uninhibited desertion of everything that is old and "outdated", it is seldom considered that the "feudal" institutions under which European agriculture is carried on are worthy of comparison with the mass production of the great surplus producing granaries in other parts of the world. Yet such agriculture as is actually carried on in (Western) Europe is characterized by the highest efficiency in the world, with the largest crop yields per acre, and, what is more important, characterized by the greater security of, and sense of job satisfaction to families living on the land. For centuries under "feudal" European systems of land organization magnificent forests have yielded timber crops on a perpetual yield bases. These forests have furnished substantial and stable livelihoods for men living settled family lives in permanent villages and towns. In contrast to this are wasting, disease ridden forests in America subject to the crude methods of migrating plagues of human locusts using ever more colossal and devastating machines - living the crude nomadic life of the type of the American lumberjacks, knowing no permanent abode and often away from contact with kith and kin for the greater part of the year. Such is this contrast that far seeing men, sensing the existence of truer values, have begun to search urgently for remedies.

Always the complex and elegant structures of western civilization have been threatened by the degenerative and destructive influences of enemies from within, in conjunction with those from the east and south beyond Europe's borders; the devastating incursions of Attila and the Huns into weakened Europe under the later Roman Empire, the crusades which saved Christian European races from being disinherited of the continent of Europe, and the murderous sweep of Chengiz Khan, are but episodes in a long and fundamentally consistent story. What we

(Continued on Page Five)



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