

Dalhousie Gazette

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Our First Great Benefactor

By William D. Forrest

George Munro will always be remembered as Dalhousie's principal benefactor for he came to the rescue of the University at a time when its finances were at a very low ebb and when the closing down of the institution was seriously considered. He was the first man who ever gave any considerable sum to a Canadian University.

Munro was born on November 12th, 1825, at Millbrook in Pictou County. He sprang from good sturdy Scotch stock—the stock that has made Pictou County famous—that same stock which Sir Walter Scott described as “our really excellent Scotch people.”

George Munro has always been depicted as a poor boy, but poor in the sense in which a large majority of the eminent men in all generations have been poor. He was brought up in a simple house where the necessities of life were always available but where the luxuries were no doubt scant—a home where they feared God and honoured the King. His father was a successful farmer. He was one of a family of ten, four boys and six girls. His youth presented no hardships which family affection and family energy could not overcome, subjected him to no privations which he did not cheerfully accept and left no memories that could not be recalled with pleasure and transmitted with pride. He visited his home annually and took delight in taking his children there.

At Millbrook he received the ordinary school education that all country boys received in those days.

At the age of twelve he entered the office of the Pictou *Observer* to learn the printing business. He remained here two years and probably “enflamed with the study of learning” to quote Milton, he abandoned printing and entered a school in New Glasgow, conducted by a very scholarly Scotsman, a university man, Basil Bell by name. Incidentally, Basil Bell was the father of Mr. A. C. Bell, a distinguished Canadian statesman and grandfather of Dr. John Bell at present practicing in New Glasgow.

Munro remained here for two years when his funds becoming exhausted, he turned to teaching and taught for two years. At the expiration of this period he again took up his studies under Bell, who at this time had become transferred to Pictou Academy. Munro remained at Pictou Academy for two years when he was appointed to the New Glasgow school as successor to Mr. Bell. After three years in this position he was called to the Free Church Academy in Halifax, first as teacher in Mathematics—then as its Principal.

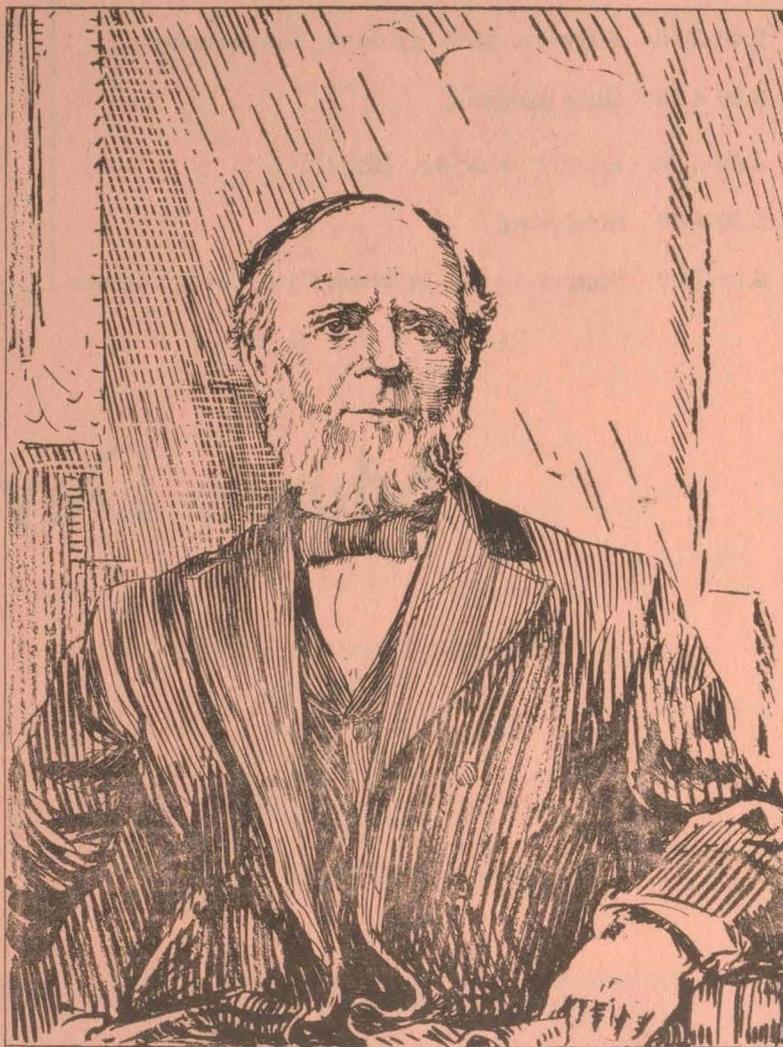
He filled this position for a period of five years. During this time, along with his other duties, he took the course prescribed for candidates for the Presbyterian ministry.

He never became a clergyman. Rumor has it that he preached one sermon and made a solemn vow never to renew the ordeal.

At this time Nova Scotia boasted of no less than nine colleges; the Roman Catholics had two, the Presbyterians three, the Baptists, the Methodists, the Episcopalians and the Congregationalists, each one; all more or less at enmity with one another. Interested in education and having no sympathy with religious bickerings, Munro decided to quit teaching in his native Province and try his luck in the United States.

In 1856 he settled in New York city. He was at first employed by the Appletons who conducted a large publishing establishment at that time. A man of good sense, sound judgment and unlimited capacity for work, he was in a comparatively short time in a position to start business on his own account.

This was the age of the dime novel. Munro conceived the idea of giving the public sound literature at low prices. His cheap publications revolutionised the book trade of America. The Seaside Library, established in 1867 contained all the best fiction, essays and history, and is said to have had a wonderful influence in educating the masses and developing in them a taste for good literature. The New York Nation of that date referred to him as a man of excellent literary judgment, a



successful “innovator” and predicted great success for the future of his enterprise.

As an “innovator” his career did not end with the Seaside Library. When he built his publishing house on Vandewater Street it was the highest building in New York City—eight stories. He might also be called the father of the skyscraper.

Again, he built the first modern apartment house in New York city. This building faces Central Park and bears the name “Dalhousie”. By this time Munro was wealthy.

Always deeply interested in the welfare of his native Province and particularly in its educational institutions, George Munro, in the year 1879 made his first contribution to Dalhousie. This was on a scale hitherto unheard of in Canada and was later followed up by equally generous gifts from the same source.

Dalhousie was at this time in desperate financial circumstances. Talk of closing down was heard on every side. Munro saved the situation. The writer has among his papers two letters written by Principal Grant of Queen's University, Kingston, to a friend in Halifax. During his fourteen years residence in this city, Principal Grant had been a warm friend and supporter of Dalhousie. He was a most active member of the Governing Board.

Writing from Kingston on October 22nd, 1880, Principal Grant says, “You simply take away my breath, I have just read your letter and do not know what to say first. Munro must be

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Munro Day Program

Afternoon

- 2.00-2.30 Annual basketball game, boys vs. girls
2.30-3.00 Boys vs. girls Archery Tournament
3.00-4.00 Quiz program
4.00-5.30 Square dancing, Big Gym
5.30-6.00 Sing-Song
6.00-7.00 Supper served in lower Gym, 25c per person

Evening

- 7.15-9.00 Glee Club musical comedy, "Masquerade"
9.00-9.45
Speakers: Judge Archibald for Alumni
Mrs. Giffin, for Alumnae
Introduction of new Council
Presentation of Gold D's
Pan-Hellenic Award
Malcolm Honor Award
10.00-1.00 Dance, Naugler's 10-piece Orchestra

Munro Day Awards

D. A. A. C.—

Gold D's: Lawrence MacIvor
Gordon Hart
Dick Currie
Les McLean
George Smith

Silver D: Bill Hagen

Glee Club Gold D's—

Barbara White
Barbara Sieniewicz
Art Hartling
Bill Hagen

D.G.A.C. Gold D's—

Kay Cox
Laurie Bissett
Laura Mackenzie
Pat Hollis
Anne Saunderson
Anita Rosenblum

Council D's—

Sue Morse
Jean MacDonald
Ken Mackinnon
Tom Patterson
Henrik Tonning
Ann Walker
Chas. O'Connell

Gazette Gold D's—

Jim McLaren
Bill Pope
Boris Funt
Don Corringham

Debating D's—

Sodales:

H. Scott Gordon

Girls Debating:

Anita Rosenblum
Terry Monaghan

The Malcolm Honor Award

The Pan-Hellenic Award

The Connelly Shield

WE LOVE TO SING AT DALHOUSIE

BLACK AND GOLD

We love to sing of Dalhousie,
Our noble Alma Mater;
Of all the things we love the best,
There is to us no greater:
The ties that bind us to college days
No power can ever sever;
For we'll be true to Dalhousie,
And the Black and Gold forever.

Tune ev'ry heart to sing for joy,
And banish ev'ry sorrow;
The boys and girls who leave to-day
Will build her up tomorrow;
We're all in love with our college dear,
The pride of our endeavour;
And we'll be true to Dalhousie,
And the Black and Gold forever.

When we have left these dear old halls,
Upon our graduation,
Another throng will sing our song
Of loyal adoration;
The memory of our college life
Shall never fade, no, never;
We'll all be true to Dalhousie,
And the Black and Gold forever.

ENGINEERS' SONG

Transits, levels, tapes and chains,
Engineers!
Dynamos, bridges, turbines, cranes,
Engineers!
Who was it drained away the flood—
Dammed the Nile to save the mud—
Engineers of Dalhousie.

Who build walls to balk the sea—
Engineers!
Who drink their fill of T. N. T.—
Engineers!
Who pulled Jonah out of the whale
Built the ark that Noah sailed—
Engineers of Dalhousie.

Who really love the girls the most—
Engineers!
Men who do and never boast—
Engineers!
Who was it put the heat in H—
Slammed the door and rang the bell—
Engineers of Dalhousie!

Who'll go to Heaven when they die—
Engineers!
Who'll grow wings and learn to fly—
Engineers!
Who will keep the Golden Gate,
And swear at those who come in late—
Engineers of Dalhousie!

DALHOUSIE DREAM GIRL

By Don Murray

All through the day, all through the night,
I keep on thinking of you.
While you're away, nothing seems right,
I feel so lonely, so blue.

Chorus:

Dalhousie dream girl of mine
You are my dream girl divine.
Love me forever and I'll love you too,
Always be true, Dream Girl to you.
Dalhousie dream girl of mine,
Thoughts of you thrill me like wine.
Make me one promise that you'll be forever
Dalhousie dream girl of mine.

TO OLD DALHOUSIE

Oft as I've sat in the twi-light gloom
Reveries flooding my sorrowful soul
Thoughts straying far from the shadowy room
Seeking a friend all my woes to console
Wishing for home and friends far away
Memories of you were the solace found
You dear old college I greet you today
Still in my heart you with glory are crowned.

Chorus:

Back to old Dalhousie as in days of old—
Back to Alma Mater and the Black and Gold—
The memories of our college growing brighter
year by year—
Here's to old Dalhousie ever to her children dear.

THE TIGER TEAM

See them plunging down to the goal,
See the Tigers banners stream,
Hear the crashing echoes roll,
As we cheer for the Tiger team.
Rah! Rah! Rah!

Chorus:

Cheer 'till the sound wakes the blue hills around
Make the scream of the north wind yield
To the strength of the yell that our hearts know so well
When the Tiger team takes the field
Rah! Rah!

With our hearts in our song we march march along
While the knell of our foes is tolled.
Oh! The victory is sealed when the team takes the field,
And we cheer for the Black and Gold.

Hark! Dost thou hear that rousing strain,
That's Dalhousie's battle scream,
Whoop 'er up just once again,
As we cheer for the Tiger team.
Rah! Rah! Rah!

—And here's another verse to the immortal

"MY GIRL'S A CRACKERJACK"

My man's from old Pine Hill,
He never pays a bill
Just robs his old man's till,
He runs the whiskey still;
And when the old man drops,
He's going to brew the hops,
How the, etc.

GAUDEAMUS IGITUR

(An international song of freedom among students
in European universities, in tribute to whom it is
here inserted.)

Gaudeamus igitur, juvenestrum sumus;
Gaudeamus igitur, juvenestrum sumus;
Post juventutem juventutem;
Post molestan senectutem,
Nos habebit humus;
Nos habebit humus;

Vivat Academia, vivat Professores!
Vivat Academia, vivat Professores!
Vivat membrum quodlibet,
Vivat membrum quodlibet,
Semper sint in flore!
Semper sint in flore!

Our First Great Benefactor --

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going to die. Evidently he is too good for this world. His first gift saved Dalhousie. His second will turn the tide of ambitious students that was setting in to the large institutions up here and make it flow to Dalhousie." And again on November 10th of the same year, "I am more than rejoiced at the prospects as far as Dalhousie is concerned. You know I put a good deal of work, thought and money into Dalhousie, and of course, where one's treasure etc., etc. Munro—what can we do for him. Were it not that Degrees have become so cheap, I would propose that we should give him a D. D. or LL.D. for L.-S.-D. a mural crown he should have. Certainly he should be put on the Board of Governors."

Besides his gifts to Dalhousie, he was a liberal contributor to all worthy objects in his adopted city. He was a large supporter of Dr. John Hall's Church—5th Avenue Presbyterian, which he attended regularly but always refused to accept any office. Among his employees in the publishing business were to be found a large number of the sons of Pictou. His home was always open to Nova Scotians and Dalhousians were particularly welcome. He was a man of quiet unassuming character, reserved almost to the point of shyness. He had no desire to bask in the sunshine of full recognition. Honorary degrees, complimentary banquets and the like had no appeal for him. He declined an invitation to accept a seat on the Governing Board of the College.

The soul of the man was modest. He never sought the limelight of life's stage. He leaned backwards in his dislike of all methods of self advertising. He despised and abhorred hypocrisy and opportunism. His word was as good as his bond. His gifts to Dalhousie were prompted solely through patriotic ideals, his love for the land of his birth, and his great interest in the cause of education in these Maritime Provinces of Canada.

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MUNRO DAY

On July 9, 1881, the Governors of Dalhousie University dealt with a petition from the students, asking that each year there be a holiday named "The George Munro Memorial Day" in celebration of the great benefactions of George Munro mentioned above. The petition was granted, and the third Wednesday of January each year was set aside as "The George Munro Memorial Day." In the course of years the name has been shortened to "Munro Day." In the year 1928 "Munro Day" was celebrated on March 9, and President A. Stanley Mackenzie reviewed the history of Dalhousie's benefactors. The special guest on that occasion was the Right Honourable R. B. Bennett, who was referred to as one of our great benefactors himself, and the cause of other notable benefactions. Since that time, the names of all our benefactors have been associated with "Munro Day." In 1938 the Senate decided that in future Munro Day should be celebrated on the second Tuesday in March.

The Quizzical Mr. X

Hilarity, prizes and brainwork will be the order of the day, in the quiz that starts the proceedings off with a bang, tomorrow at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. "Lauchie" MacLellan, the master of ceremonies will be dishing out prizes right and left to those whose numbers happen to be drawn. The questions will be asked by a distinguished personage whose name cannot be divulged because of repercussion on his family in occupied Europe.

This "Mr. X" is being brought to Dalhousie after much trouble and expense. He has escaped from his native country and this marks his first public appear-

ance in Canada. He is a noted authority on quizology, brain functions and surface anatomy.

High spots of the quiz will be several "Oscar" questions, which will be worth a goodly sum of money, if they are answered correctly. The prizes promise to be both unique and practical, and "Lauchie" expects to hand a lot of them out to the lucky winners.

So, come early gang, and start 'er rolling with a bang. When your old lucky number comes up, the prizes will be confoozin' but amozin'. If you feel lucky come along . . . if not—come anyway.

Cape Breton Hoedown!

In a surprise announcement, the Munro Day Committee has announced Dal patrons of the rug-cutting arts will have a chance to extend their activities into a new field of operations Munro Day afternoon, when for the first time in many years, if ever, square dances will be run off in the Gym. This novel feature will give spectators an opportunity to work off much of the excess steam that usually accumulates in the afternoon, and should be a spirited performance, or as one campus

personality put it, "more fun than two barrels of . . . monkeys."

Square sets are a novelty to most collegians, but everyone will start off on an equal "footing", and with a little practice and a good caller, should be able to "promenade" and "dig for the oyster" like a true Ecum Secumite in no time. The dance is scheduled for 4 to 5.30 p.m. Immediately after the Quizz, chairs will be laid away, the floor will be cleared, and every Dalhousian with a spark of life will be away to The Square Dance!

Dal Players Masquerade

A word about the stage show, which is suitably titled, "Masquerade". It is a Musical Comedy, under the auspices of the Dalhousie Glee Club, and the Dalhousie Music Club. "Masquerade" is directed by Harry Zappler, who has excelled himself, in his efforts to make a huge success of it. The play was written jointly, by Mlle. Lafeuille, Ted Shields, Don Corringham, and Harry Zappler. The cast is made up of all the leading talent of Dalhousie, and numbers over 40, including in starring roles, Don Corringham, Kay Archibald, Doug Rogers, Art Hartling, Barbar Sieniewicz, Dorothy Hamilton, Mary Bissett, Elaine Hope-

well, Ted Shields, Betty O'Toole, and as guest stars, Irene Spence and Sgt. Herb LeFrois.

"Masquerade" is a step into a new field of play productions, as far as Dal is concerned. Musical shows have not been an unknown feature in the past, but to my knowledge, there has not been one the assumed the proportions of this show, with original script, and the amount of work entailed in its production. So, may I say, that congratulations are in order for Harry Zappler and the co-authors of the play, and to the cast for making possible such a production.

"LAUCHIE"