

TWENTY YEARS OF THE REVIEW

THE EDITOR

JUST twenty years ago a group of men met at luncheon in a Halifax restaurant to consider the project of a new quarterly journal for discussion and criticism. The meeting was a sequel to much personal exchange of regret that the *University Magazine* (on which Dalhousie had cooperated with McGill and Toronto) had, a few weeks earlier, ceased publication. How vividly do some of us recall the warning that an enterprize which three universities together had been unable to maintain could not with much hope of success be undertaken by one of the three alone! But the risk, though acknowledged, was not thought to be prohibitive. It was urged in reply that enthusiasm for one's own special venture might be more than enough to compensate for the absence of associates, and the thought of Nova Scotia's traditional leadership in Canadian literature seemed to indicate that opportunity for her talent had come again.

Thus was launched THE DALHOUSIE REVIEW, of which the present number completes Volume XX.

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Before me as I write lies the slender Vol. I, No. 1. "Quite a presentable magazine", the eager President of the *Review Publishing Company* assured me, in an accompanying note, that afternoon in April, 1921, when my first copy reached me from the press! It was not unpresentable, but Volume XX, No. 4, placed side by side with it will at once suggest how the REVIEW has expanded—in scale, in scope, in mechanical production, in the cooperative work of publicists from near and far.

We began in an atmosphere very different from the present. Two years had then elapsed since the signature of the "Peace" which has proved to have been no more than an uneasy truce between wars. The REVIEW joined, naturally, with other magazines of 1921 in considering "the aftermath of Versailles". Hopes were then bright, and no one wanted to anticipate failure. In our earlier numbers we gave opportunity to thinkers of various types for debate on problems of the Reconstruction: problems which now seem remote, yet had in them implicitly the very

issues of the present. From the first we tried to serve our readers through this medium of intellectual exchange, and at least we may claim to have furnished no mere reflection of prevailing opinion: we have never been without the spirit of insurgent criticism. What survivor from those early years of the REVIEW does not recall how W. E. Maclellan, in his "Topics of the Day", at a time when enthusiasm was so high for two particular causes—the League of Nations and the National Home for Jews—used to reiterate his dissent, for reasons which later experience has most painfully confirmed?

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The interest of our contributors, however, has always included subjects very different from those of international strife. Our first number had an article on the poetry of George Meredith, another on education for industry: the present number has a paper of analytic argument on the teaching of the New Testament about business ethics, and one recording the reflections of a Canadian visitor in the old Massachusetts home of Emerson and Thoreau. Our predecessors in journalism had an intellectual and spiritual leisure denied to us, but we still make room for those who have anything vital to say on literature or art, on public health, on education, on commerce, on any aspect of social order. The REVIEW has taken its part in the estimate of great personal figures that have adorned the cultural life of our time: it has been vigilant, too, as is always the office of a quarterly, in marking the great centenaries at which thought regarding some epoch in human progress is instructively stimulated. Not a few of such papers, which first appeared in our pages, have since been collected and re-issued with due acknowledgment as sections of an important new book: readers of a volume of Canadian poetry often notice that verses in it first saw the light in THE DALHOUSIE REVIEW. Increasingly too—as the present number illustrates—we have endeavored by notices of new books to bring to our readers' attention what is best worth their further study in the world of publishing.

Amid the numerous changes which time has necessarily brought, we have tried to keep one particular pledge of our opening "Salutation." We promised to show special interest in Maritime Province history. As I turn over the twenty volumes, I note that, in the eighty issues of the REVIEW which have so far appeared, approximately eighty-five articles have dealt

with some aspect of the past of Nova Scotia, of New Brunswick or of Prince Edward Island.

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Closing now our twentieth year, we acknowledge with appreciation the support which has borne out our faith that there was room and even demand for a magazine of this type. It is needless to set forth in detail how the difficulties as well as the opportunities have of late increased. With so much more that it is imperative to discuss, and on which we require illumination from many very different quarters, the REVIEW has enormously widened the circle of its contributors. From an early date we enlisted notable writers from Great Britain and from the United States: of late we have included French and Italian leaders of opinion. Our issue of last October had an article by the most famous of Italian anti-Fascist historians, Professor Gaetano Salvemini, for many years professor of history in the University of Florence, now visiting professor at Yale and Harvard. The present issue has its opening article by that highly distinguished French journalist M. Andre Geraud (known to the reading world as "Pertinax"). For a forthcoming issue the services of two Italian exiles have been secured: Count Carlo Sforza, for years Foreign Minister of Italy while the constitutional régime still prevailed there, and Mr. G. A. Borghese, the Milan journalist whose *Goliath* (a study of Signor Mussolini) provided such a sensation of the publishing season in 1936. On another aspect of French affairs the REVIEW will shortly publish an article by Madame Genevieve Tabouis.

These are a few of the articles we have in prospect. As we secure more public support, from subscribers and advertisers, the service will be extended and deepened.