

SILVER JUBILEE OF THE REVIEW

THE EDITOR

WITH the issue of this number, THE DALHOUSIE REVIEW completes its twenty-fifth year. It seems a fitting moment for retrospect, upon the work its founders planned for it to accomplish—or at least to attempt. The *Salutation*, which appeared in April, 1921, may now be recalled, not indeed with any confidence that we have lived up to our programme, but as reminder at this convenient halting-place of what we set out to do. In such a project it is proper that one should always be reaching out towards more than is within one's grasp.

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The *Salutation* dwelt upon the excellent example set by the older to the younger countries in their journals of *criticism*; those monthlies and quarterlies, neither narrowly technical nor merely entertaining, but suggestive and instructive for the general reader on matters most worthy of attention. They bring to notice the most important new books, the most significant contemporary movements, the most urgent practical problems of the hour. Looking back twenty-five years, one surely feels that there was need, just about the date when this REVIEW was founded, for a medium of interchange and discussion, which those whose point of view is that of the Maritime Provinces of Canada might regard as in a special sense their own. It was far indeed from the purpose of the founders to limit the magazine to a local service. From the beginning it has invited contribution from all quarters, and has been enriched by the variety of the response. But besides those world problems that are universal, and the world literature or science, history or philosophy, which constitutes our common treasure, there are matters of high import on which a great difference is made, not merely for judging but even for understanding them, by one's own past, one's special interests, one's heritage in blood and institutions and tradition. With this in mind, the pledge was given that the REVIEW, while primarily Canadian, would maintain a background of the Maritime Provinces. "We avow," said the *Salutation*, "a nationalism that is not prejudice, and a provincialism that is not narrowness."

This explains the special provision made in our pages from the first for articles on some aspect of the history of these provinces: developments in their agriculture and trade; con-

stitutional struggles; places and types of settlement, their evolving institutions, their journalism, their folklore, their ballads, and—of course, above all—the great personal figures of their past. I find that in one hundred numbers, over the period of twenty-five years, we published approximately eighty-five papers of this character.

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On subjects of world interest, we have endeavoured to furnish the kind of article which seemed most useful in a quarterly at a time when the scene was changing so fast. Often the historical development, the geographical and economic conditions, the interplay of races and of interests, needed to be set forth for adequate understanding of the day-to-day news, and such interpretation we have kept in mind. We have been fortunate, too, in enlisting writers of the highest authority in their respective countries, who welcomed the pages of the REVIEW as a medium through which to reach the Canadian public.

Our first number appeared two and a half years after the Armistice which closed the fighting period of the First World War. Little more than one year after the signing of the *Treaty of Versailles*, by which it was hoped, and widely believed, that an era of durable peace had been inaugurated. Hardly yet had the Canadian people begun to realize the difficulties and hardships which would ensue in what Mr. Churchill has called "the aftermath". Little had happened to disturb the illusions of an artificial war-time prosperity, where work had been abundant, wages high, the general standard of living raised by such well-paid jobs for everyone as the successive Loans were able to provide, and the opportunity of a vast fortune so often inviting the ingenuities of unscrupulous finance. General contentment still prevailed in that spring of 1921, both among those workers for whom the times had never been so good as during the years after August, 1914, and among those so aptly described by Harold Begbie in England as hard-faced members of parliament who looked as if they had done very well out of the war. Then, as now, it was cheerfully promised, to any who had misgivings about the transient character of such happiness, that "the reconstruction period" would bring, in some mysterious fashion, a continuance of the economic miracle. In a mood of such radiant enthusiasm there began those speculative ventures on the Stock Market whose character it required the Depression, following the great collapse of 1929, to disclose.

Those years, too, witnessed (as everyone can now realize) very inadequate use, by political leaders, of the trust which the victory of the armed forces of the Allies in 1918 had put into their hands. Racial prejudice and national selfishness soon marred the fair promise of the League of Nations, and in the victorious countries—whose public mistakenly assumed that the peril of another war was so remote as to be negligible—the policies provocative of war were demanded by a popular temper which statesmanship did not resist. In a mood of composure like that of those who on the eve of the Flood “did eat and drink and rose up to play”, the game of power politics, interspersed with that of ruthless commercial and trade competition, proceeded. One recalls as particular examples the French invasion of the Ruhr, the Polish raids on neighboring countries, the outrage by Mussolini’s Fascists upon Greece, the chaos in Yugoslavia leading to King Alexander’s still more horrible despotism. During those years the REVIEW endeavoured to keep its readers abreast of the most significant events, publishing each quarter not merely general *resumés* by writers on its own Editorial Board, but also special articles on the graver problems by persons close to them or qualified through technical knowledge in an unusual degree.

Glancing over the Table of Contents in the volumes for that critical period, one notes contributions on the fast changing economic outlook by such authoritative writers as Professor C. R. Fay, of Cambridge, Mr. F. W. Hirst (editor of the London *Economist*) and our own Canadian Dr. Adam Shortt. On constitutional issues and racial conflicts, Mr. Stephen Gwynn and Mr. J. W. Good (editor of the Dublin *Freeman’s Journal*) wrote about Ireland, Professor A. N. Holcombe (of Harvard) about possible modifications of the Geneva League which would win American partnership, Mr. G. E. R. Gedye (the London *Times* correspondent in mid-Europe) about Hungary, and Mr. M. S. Eulambio about Greece. A piquant interest belonged in January, 1942, to the article we published under the title “Nazi-Hunting in Argentina”, by the leader of the search at Buenos Aires into Fifth-Column activity by Germans there. Such are specimens of the effort made, at times of intense feeling, to provide dispassionate presentation or—where this was too much to expect, presentation in sequence of opinions by experts of differing views —on problems of world importance. The project of extending higher education, on subjects about which it was urgent that an ever wider public should be informed, was thus always in mind.

During the years which followed 1929, as world perils were visibly multiplying, the REVIEW extended and deepened this department of its work, and it has much gratified the Editorial Board to have frequent assurance that such service has been valued. More and more writers from different countries have been setting forth here some problem of their own environment. For example, Prof. T. G. P. Spear, of Delhi University, presented for us in a memorable article "The Indian Situation"; Mr. Waclaw Lednicki (formerly Professor of Russian Literature in the University of Cracow) discussed Russo-Polish relations; Sir Robert Hadfield, the famous British metallurgist, wrote on the eve of the Imperial Economic Conference about "Economic Organization and Development of Empire"; Baron Lindsay discussed British Foreign Policy and Viscount Sandon "the New World and Europe". Recently M. Gabriel Bonneau spoke for "The Fighting French".

Late in the nineteen-thirties and in the early nineteen-forties the leaders of thought or of action in the countries then most troubled used THE DALHOUSIE REVIEW to make known in Canada their difficulties and their projects. President Benes wrote on "Czechoslovakia's Struggle for Freedom", Count Sforza and Professor Salvemini on the Italian case against Mussolini, "Pertinax" and Madame Tabouis on the service, the hardships and the appeal of France, Sigrid Undset on the horror of Nazism as seen by a Norwegian patriot. We included also articles by Germans of eminent authority who had chosen exile rather than submission to the Fuehrer, and who on this side of the Atlantic conceived—surely with justice—that their duty to their native country lay in candid exposure of the regime they had abandoned in disgust. The REVIEW accepted and used articles of this character from Dr. Hermann Rauschning (formerly President of the Senate of the Free City of Dantzig), Dr. Otto Strasser (Leader of the Free-German Front), Mr. F. W. Sollmann and Mr. G. R. Treviranus (Cabinet Ministers in the Government of the short-lived German Republic). On Yugoslavian affairs like use was made of our pages by Mr. Louis Adamic, who speaks with unique authority not only for his Slovenian fellow-countrymen, but for the whole South Slav organization. Particularly illuminating to some of our readers have been the articles about Spain by Signora de Planelles, widow of the Minister of Health in the Spanish Republic, about which we are now wondering whether it will come again.

While discussion of international affairs has been most conspicuous of late in the REVIEW, Mr. J. A. Stevenson's "Topics of the Day" providing a quarterly *precis* of what has happened and writers or public leaders of note in the different countries supplying special articles, we have kept the literary and cultural interest also before us. Especially in a magazine which bears the name of a Canadian University, it was appropriate to have the guides of public education deal with topics of their intimate concern. We valued the contributions of men or women eminent in the educational field of other countries. For example, Sir Henry Hadow, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sheffield, wrote about "The Place of Music in Education"; The Right Hon. H. A. L. Fisher, Warden of New College, Oxford, on "Academic Freedom"; Sir James Baillie, President of the University of Leeds, on "Applied Science in Yorkshire"; Sir Cyril Norwood, Headmaster of Harrow, on the "English Public Schools". Dr. John Murray, Principal of University College, Exeter, (from whom an article "Universities" appears in our present number) has contributed frequently and instructively on the educational problems with which he is in close and constant contact. A particularly suggestive and welcome article of this sort was that by Mr. Peter Manniche, Principal of the International People's College at Elsinore, on the recent educational development so notable in Denmark.

A glance over the Table of Contents for almost any volume of these twenty-five years will show contributions of literary exposition or criticism; studies of great artists in poetry or prose, such as Professor Pelham Edgar's papers on Henry James and Matthew Arnold, Prof. W. J. Alexander's re-examination of Browning, Dr. Eliza Ritchie's "Goethe Restudied", Mr. Arnold Whitridge's essay on W. B. Yeats and Mr. S. S. Dhami's on Rabindranath Tagore. We tried to be mindful also both of Canada's own creative artists whose place is now secure and of the younger generation with literary promise to whose beginnings we might impart a stimulus. Nearly all of the first rank in such work have at some time contributed verse or prose in these pages—Sir Charles Roberts, E. J. Pratt, Wilson MacDonald, Audrey Alexandra Brown, Edgar MacInnes, Madge Macbeth, Hugh MacLennan and many more.

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Entering now on its second stretch of twenty-five years, THE DALHOUSIE REVIEW may well acknowledge its indebtedness to those who at the inception of this literary venture believed

in it and have perseveringly supported it. A magazine of the kind cannot hope for a great popular circulation: such is the reward of a manner of writing and a choice of subjects remote from what our founders had in view. But though necessarily limited in its appeal to public taste and interest, it has been judged by critics whose opinion is valuable to have served an important purpose and to be deserving of continued encouragement. The attention of the Editorial Board was drawn some time ago to a paragraph in the London *British Weekly*, that very famous organ of the English Free Churches. The editor, Dr. J. A. Hutton, was taking leave to reproduce an article which had appeared in our pages, remarking that here "if this be a taste of its quality, is an extremely vigilant REVIEW". Dr. Hutton proceeds:

It reassures me immensely, when so much is being said in a superficial and temperamental way both here and in America on things as they are with us and on our prospects, to know that there is a REVIEW which moves on this deep and high level of enquiry and debate.

The need for such service has certainly not diminished as public opinion is being formed in the post-war years. So THE DALHOUSIE REVIEW goes forward, encouraged, though diffident at times, on its task.