July 19th 1921
D.T.

THE SCOTSMAN, TUESDAY, JULY

Town and gown join hands to-day in doing the honours of the Scottish capital to a distinguished visitor from overseas, the Prime Minister of Canada, and her able representative at the Imperial Conference. Some twenty years have passed since we paid our homage on a similar occasion to the statesmanship and eloquence of Canada's Grand Old Man, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and it is but four years since we were heartened in a dark hour of the war by the reassuring presence and robust sense of Sir Robert Borden, the immediate predecessor and chief of our honoured guest. The interval has been filled with momentous events, which have profoundly affected the very status of the component parts of the Empire; but, whatever else may have changed, the warm affection of all Scotsmen for the nearest, and to many the dearest, of the Great Dominions has suffered no change, or rather its temperature has risen to blood heat under the emotional strain of our common sacrifices and common victory. The magnificent rally of the daughter nation to the old flag, and the renewal of home associations and interests on the part of thousands of her sturdy sons have increased tenfold the sense of kinship and solidarity for the generation that has known these experiences. At the critical juncture in this great effort Mr Meighen played a notable part by piloting through Parliament the requisite measures for maintaining the military drafts. The University desires particularly to enlist his sympathy as the Minister charged with external affairs in support of her educational policy. She has long enjoyed a mutually profitable commerce with his countrymen in the things of the mind and the spirit. If she has freely exported westward principals and professors, teachers and preachers, she has glady kept the open door for the import of intellectual goods to balance the account. She will spare no exertion to ensure that this exchange of spiritual values and this influx of Canadian youth of good parts and promise may continue in increasing volume to re-enforce the bonds of natural piety that unite the daughter to the motherland. While our guest represents the oldest of the Dominions, he is himself the youngest of the Prime Ministers of the Empire, but happily in these days youth is an offence that is readily condoned, especially when the stripling is equipped with the sagacity and experience which alone make age venerable. Nor is the Canadian Premier affected by another old world prejudice which belittles the lawyer in politics, in the democracies of the West leadership tends more and more to fall to the lot of the lawyer It adds greatly to the pleasure I have in presenting the Premier for the degree of Doctor of Laws that he is a distinguished member of the Canadian Bar, and already bears the title of one of His Majesty's Counsellors learned in the law. (Applause)

SECRETARY'S SILENT SERVICES.

Professor Mackintosh, in presenting Sir Maurice Hankey, G.C.B., said:—When Sir Maurice Hankey retired from service afloat to become Secretary to the Committee of Imperial Defence, he took with him into the staid precincts of Downing Street something of the ubiquity, readiness, and silent efficiency we associate with the British Navy. It has been his unique experience to attend every political conference that has taken place between the Allies from the beginning of the war until to-day—in other words, he went everywhere and knew everything His adaptability and discretion are vouched for by the fact that he has been Secretary successively to the War Cabinet, the Imperial War Cabinet, the Peace Conference, and the Council of Four—in short, to everybody who was anybody during the war and in the making of the peace. We know that his secretariat marks the scrapping of some venerable traditions of Cabinet procedure; and we have the emphatic testimony of his political chiefs to the incalculable value of his silent services in the Council Chamber, while the Prime Minister has described the mysterious War Book, for which he was responsible, as "one of the most remarkable productions any man could peruse." His King and country have expressed their grateful thanks to Sir Maurice as a true organiser of victory behind the scenes, and the University rejoices in having the opportunity to call him before the curtain to receive the tribute of her honorary degree. (Applause.)

THE PRINCIPAL'S TRIBUTE.

Principal Sir Alfred Ewing performed the capping ceremony with the customary formality, and in addressing the recipients, said that the Prime Minister of Canada was the latest of a long line of Dominion Premiers to whom the University of Edinburgh had given the greatest honour within her power, and it was very fitting that she should, for the links that bound Edinburgh to the great Dominions of the Crown were so conspicuous, so strong, and so ancient that he did not think any Prime Minister of any of the great Dominions, perhaps least of all the Prime Minister of Canada, should consider that he had properly fulfilled his function in life until he was made an LL.D. of the University of Edinburgh. (Applause.) In the eloquent speech he had delivered a few minutes ago in another place, he spoke of the links between the Mother Country and the Dominions as no mere mechanical bonds They thanked God that they were far stronger than that. They were bonds of sentiment and affection, now cemented in blood and tears. They were bonds which they believed could never be broken, bonds possessing a far greater potency than could be possessed by anything that could be formulated, and possessing also infinitely greater promise for the future. In Sir Maurice Hankey they had the silent worker behind the scenes. A Prime Minister was necessarily a man in the public eye. The Prime Minister of a Coalition deserved their sympathy—(laughter)—and deserved the sympathy of the University which had for its Lord Rector also the Prime Minister of a Coalition. He was a conspicuous man, and his deeds were known to all the world, but Sir Maurice Hankey had quietly worked in almost unbroken silence for many years, and yet he doubted whether even any Prime Minister had done as much to unite and strengthen the Empire as Sir Maurice Hankey had done (Applause.) That was a large claim to make, but to those who knew anything of what had been going on behind the scenes, it was a well-founded claim For years before the war, Sir Maurice was preparing that war-book to which allusion had been made—not a very interesting piece of literature, but a tremendously influential one—a book which prescribed in the utmost detail just what every Department of State had to do the moment war should be declared, if it ever should be declared, a book which had already passed through three editions before the critical moment came at which it had become operative, a book which had formed the gospel of every Department of State on which it acted, producing a co-ordinating result, which would otherwise have been impossible. Sir Maurice Hankey's was the co-ordinating brain. That book he prepared as Secretary to the Committee on Imperial Defence, and from that he passed as Secretary to every one of the successive bodies which directed the winning of the war, the War Council, the War Committee of the Cabinet, finally the War Cabinet itself, and now he had carried these same talents into the winning of the peace as the first Secretary who ever existed of the British Cabinet. (Applause.) Such a man must have exceptional gifts, and one of them was the gift of reticence. He often wondered whether Sir Maurice had kept a diary. There were more secrets locked in his bosom than in any other man's, and some day when they had all gone, his diary—if he had kept one—would supply most valuable material to history. (Applause.)

SCOTTISH UNIVERSITIES AND CANADIAN PIONEERS.

Mr Meighen said:—I am eager to tell you in simple words and without undue superlative of the sense of pride and gratitude with which I accept this honour at your hands. There are a great many fine things that we have been forbidden to covet by the lawgiver at Sinai, but an honorary degree from Edinburgh was not included in the list. (Laughter) Nothing could have been more prized. The only reason, indeed, why it was not coveted is that the possibility that such a distinction would ever "swim into my ken" had not entered my dreams To know that it has actually come leads one to the conclusion that, after all, there is some advantage in living a long way off There are not many amaranthine wreaths that come by way of unearned increment, but this surely is one. Scottish Universities are about as old as Scotland, and

we have had enough Scots among us in Canada to let us understand why this should be so. Those intrepid adventurers, half warrior and half tillsman, who first raised the standard of civilisation in this country, had to overcome almost every obstacle that man and nature could marshal. They found a rigorous climate and a rugged, obstinate soil; they lived in the midst of enemies. But they and their descendants created out of a rough, defiant wilderness this marvel of industry; this land of learning, this home of culture. When the Scot transferred himself to Canada he repeated there the performance which his ancestors had achieved at home. He did not choose the soil of easiest tillage—very often the reverse—but he was building for his children, his care was for the generations to come. Some of our provinces owe their settlement in large degree to his courage. Nor was his mind centred on the pursuit of wealth and comfort.

HEARTS SET ON EDUCATION.

More perhaps than any other race the Scottish men and women of early days in Canada set their hearts on education, and it was a rule of their lives that whatever else might be denied them, they would lay foundations upon which their children could erect in the new land that system of intellectual discipline and development which had been the pride of their fathers in the old. It was a custom of those families to select the son of greatest promise, or more sons than one, if by any means they could, and at whatever cost, whatever sacrifice, to give those sons every advantage that the Universities of their own or even of this country could afford. It is because of the stern idealism of families like that that we have had good schools in the Dominion almost as long as we have had settlement. We are in the habit over there, the same as people are in every country, of pointing to our trade and our production, to the growth of our jurisprudence and the administration of law, to our great construction and engineering triumphs, and nothing is easier than to find immediate causes or policies to which good results can be traced. But the simple and useful truth is this—whatever of moral and intellectual virility Canada enjoys, and she has much, not in her cities alone and around her Cathedrals and Colleges, but out on her frontiers and in her country homes, whatever she enjoys of that moral and intellectual virility, which is the real parent of every achievement, she owes to that severe self-discipline, that passion for education of her pioneers. (Applause.)

GROWTH OF UNIVERSITIES.

This explains a fact which already all of you know, all of you who take interest in the Dominion—it is the early growth of our Universities. Even before Canada received its present political institutions there were established several Universities. These institutions were modelled pretty much after your own. The one I call mine owes its inception to the energy and devotion to learning of a Scotsman. Compared with this ancient foundation its tradition is short, but when one remembers that the British flag has flown over Canada for only a hundred and sixty years, a University with a charter a century old is no longer juvenile. (Applause.) It has grown to extraordinary dimensions, and is now, I am informed, if measured by the number of students within its pale, the largest in the world. The preoccupations of a new country are, as you know, intensely practical, and institutions of learning, as all other institutions, moulded as they are by the national temper, have in such a country greater tendency to concentrate on the practical than they would have in older lands. I hope that tendency will not drive too far. I hope the example of Edinburgh will again be contagious; that the example of the grand old foundations of these islands will keep us right. I hope that all this glamour of the practical will never be allowed to obscure the lofty but fundamental purpose of every seat of learning—the enlargement of the mind, the cultivation of the understanding, the purifying of taste. To these ends every branch of the work of Universities should be subordinated. Only in that way can they cause the light to shine; only in that way can they diffuse those better things that interest and invigorate, that inspire and sustain, that comfort in adversity and temper in triumph; only in that way can they contribute to the production of those finer fruits of literature and art by which people of our own and future ages are so wont to judge the human standard of a nation, and which survive without concern of time long after the nation itself has passed away. (Applause.)

SIR MAURICE HANKEY ON UNIVERSITY'S RECORD.

Sir Maurice Hankey, at the outset, apologised to the Senatus Academicus for having twice, owing to urgent public business, had to ask for a postponement of that ceremony. But the postponement had given him the advantage of receiving the degree at the same time as his friend Mr Meighen. It resulted from Mr. Meighen's promotion to the degree of Doctor of Laws that the meetings of the Empire statesmen now taking place at Downing Street were composed almost entirely of Doctors of Laws of that University — (applause) — and it would certainly add a touch of the picturesque to their proceedings if they could wear their robes. (Laughter.) The Vice-Chancellor had already explained that in a Secretary silence was golden, so that he was afraid he could not divulge any of these tremendous secrets of which he was supposed to be the repository. But he welcomed the opportunity of expressing the reasons why that degree made a special appeal to him. He could give a great variety of reasons. He could say that, as an Englishman, though with a good sprinkling of good Scottish blood in his veins, he had something like veneration for the educational institutions of a country which had given them three out of their six last Prime Ministers, their Commander-in-Chief in the late war, and a host of their leading public men, out of all proportion to the relative numbers of the population. (Applause.) As one who had never had an opportunity of obtaining any academic degree through the ordinary channels, this honour made a special appeal. At a time when other men of his age were studying the humanities in that ancient seat of learning, he was devoting all his attention, as a young officer of the Royal Marine Artillery, to the inhumanities of the art of war. (Laughter.) The real reasons why that honour

appealed so much were rather of a different order The first was the personality and calibre of the leading men of that University. It was said that no man could serve two masters He did not think that was meant to apply—he hoped not—to political life, because, as Secretary of the Cabinet, he was doing his best to serve twenty (Laughter) But of those twenty, the two with whom he had worked longest and in the most privileged intimacy were no less than their Chancellor and their Lord Rector —Mr Balfour and Mr Lloyd George. (Applause.) He supposed that if he were to say what he should like to say about them, his testimony would be regarded as biased He was, therefore, going to a source which no one could accuse of being prejudiced—namely their enemy in the late war. General Ludendorff, in his book "My War Memories," said —"Our war Chancellors did nothing to repair the damage or enlighten the people They had no creative ideas, and did nothing to hold the people together and lead them, unlike the great dictators Clemenceau, Lloyd George, and Wilson." Then, in the second part, he said, referring to the Entente nations— "They had had nothing but failures, but they were as determined as their Governments, and with a strong national feeling backed up by the great men who led them so vigorously . . . . Germany, unfortunately for herself, had taken a different road . . The political leadership of the Chancellors was a failure" Hindenburg, in "Out of My Life," said:—"I never found among German statesmen that sense of political power, silent but self-contained, which was characteristic of the English."

TRIBUTES TO BRITISH LEADERS.

These were remarkable tributes Here was a nation—Germany—which had steadily prepared for war, which had an almost perfect military machine and gigantic resources, and which produced great Generals. On their own admission, they failed to produce great national leaders It was a significant fact, and one which contributed, he thought, a good deal towards our victory The fact was that the German political system before the war was not adapted to the production of great national leaders. Our own political and Parliamentary institutions were a furnace in which the statesmen were tried out, and from which only such men could emerge as their Chancellor and Lord Rector Let them think for a moment of the leadership of Mr Lloyd George, of his repeated clarion calls to the nation, telling them the cold, hard truth when necessary, encouraging and inspiring them when they needed that, and always leading with his eye steadily fixed on the goal of victory, organising the nation through the War Cabinet, the Empire through the Imperial War Cabinet, the Alliance through the Supreme War Council. (Applause.)

Referring to Mr Balfour's leadership, Sir Maurice Hankey asked them to think of Mr Balfour's dispatch of January 12, 1917, to President Wilson, with its vivid contrast between the war aims of the Allies and of the enemy What did that not mean in enlightening the people of the United States, in encouraging the war-weary peoples of the Alliance, and in correspondingly depressing the enemy? There was one other name to which he wished to refer. There were some in the war who all the time were in the limelight, there were others who had to work in obscurity There was no name which deserved greater honour, and no man who did greater service in that category to his country than their Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Sir Alfred Ewing (Applause)

UNIVERSITY'S WAR RECORD.

Another reason why that honour made such a special appeal was the splendid war record of that University. In the roll of honour in which were recorded the deeds of the Edinburgh University, the first name that struck the eye on the frontispiece was that of the great soldier, organiser, and statesman, martyr to his country—Lord Kitchener. (Applause.) Another name was that of that paragon of modern fighting men, Lord Beatty. (Applause.) But these leaders, political or military, would be the first to say that the war was won, not by the leaders, but by the heroism of the officers and men, who bore the brunt and the burden, on the high seas and in the trenches. From that University there went forth nearly 8000—a noble band. Of these, he believed, 944 never returned; many came back bearing honourable wounds; five came back with their breasts decorated with the Victoria Cross; and there were over 1700 bearing other honours. And yet he was not quite sure that it was these splendid factors by which the war deeds of that University would be remembered. There was one figure he wished he could give—the number of those whose lives were saved by the skill of the famous medical faculty of that University. (Applause.) He accepted that degree, not only with pride, but, owing to the splendour of the University's record, with humility. (Applause.)

The company were thereafter entertained to tea.

CANADA AND EDUCATION.

LAUREATION CEREMONY AT UNIVERSITY.

—In the afternoon the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws of Edinburgh University was conferred upon the Right Hon Arthur Meighen, K C, M.P Prime Minister of Canada, and Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Maurice Hankey, G C B., Secretary to the Cabinet. The laureation ceremony took place in the Upper Library of the University, where, shortly after three o'clock, a numerous and representative company gathered to welcome the distinguished visitors The Vice-Chancellor, Principal Sir Alfred Ewing, presided, and was accompanied by members of the Senatus and University Court Among others present were Bailie Barrie, acting Chief Magistrate, and several members of the Town Council Prayer was offered by the Dean of the Faculty of Divinity, Professor W. P. Paterson

EDUCATIONAL LINKS.

The Dean of the Faculty of Law, Professor Mackintosh, in presenting the Prime Minister of Canada for the honorary degree of LL.D., said:—