Start Closer Pan-American Intercolligate Ties

Mackenzie College of Brazil and Union College of the United States Have an Academic Connection for Exchange of Students

A FIRST step has been taken to introduce Pan-America- nism that human element which its advocates have found so difficult to bring into more intimate and friendly even than commercial intercourse. Pan-America nism is an expansion of diplomatic intercourse, as essential as such bonds are. And the pioneer in this new phase of Pan-Americanism is some- times aadder to the ‘mother school’ because when the State established its normal and model schools for boys and girls from the north and southern continents was neither a trader nor a pedagogue, a scholar in international- ists, President William A. Waddell of Mackenzie College. He came to the United States, seeking some concrete step to move the interchange of ideas and students, possibly of teachers, between his institution and a high-grade school in this coun- try. He found what he sought at Union College, Schenectady, a great standing at the end of his freshman year will be eligible to enter the sophomore class at Union as the boy has done his first year’s work in Schenectady, and the move is far from that.

It may help to get the international significance of the move by President Waddell and to appreciate what may come of it for Pan-Americanism, to recall what was said by the writer by Dr. Ernesto Nelson, a delegate from Ar- gentina to the recent conference in Wash- ington.

"It is not enough," he said, "that we trade together and send diplomats back and forth. That alone will not bring sympathetic understanding between the peoples of the two continents. Each should know something of the other in a way that thinking and enjoying and doing out- side of the life of business. I believe that when the United States has reached the stage that we have great schools, write good books, compose our own music, and paint our own pictures, you will have a greater re- gard for us than one can ever come from thinking of us merely as persons to trade with or as words to be considered in con- nection with the great Missouri river. It is something in the way of intellectual give and take that Pan-Americanism needs and desires.""What the man from Argentina said, specifically refers to the Pan-American Student Exchange course of the United Nations of Science and Education of the Pan-American Union, a course to all the republics of South Amer- ica, and to certain countries of Europe to have its first tangible result in the intercollegiate experiment of Union College and Mackenzie."A small group of Sao Paulo students spent last summer in Schenectady, and will enter Union at the beginning of the next academic year in the Fall, but they will come to the United States early in the Summer and spend several pre- cious weeks in the great schools of the United States and in other homes in Schenectady. That is for the purpose of North Americanizing them, giving them some familiar face to the use of colloquial English, (they already have a good working knowledge of the Eng- lish,) and of giving them an insight into American life, that they may bring back to the students of the University of Sao Paulo, in schools to join the undergraduate body of Union as individuals, cosmopolitans rather than Brazilian, and not hard to- gether as a colony."

"If students from Sao Paulo see fit to come to Macdonald for a part of their course and with the instruction to work in for their course during the academic year and while there are many great opportunities for them to have a chance to see the many facilities for becoming acquainted to the language and the social life of the people,"

President Waddell has been the chief originator for the exchange of the young men in Sao Paulo in its current state of development. He has been de- scribed by his opponents as being the splendid op- ponent of the Union College and the Pennsylvania State University in the plant of the General Electric Com- pany at Schenectady. Applied science is a new phase in education in this country, but it is the students in Mackenzie. Since the college was established, in 1892, as the out- growth of the preliminary schools which had been founded two decades earlier, we have offered three courses—one in litera- ture and arts, another in pure science, and the third in applied science. There have been a very few to elect the arts course. We have never had a matricu- lation in pure science, so practically our entire student body is in applied science. The explanation of that, of course, is found in the stage of the country's de- velopment, or, as I may say, development of all South America. The need is the great initial enterprises involving construc- tion and engineering."

"That thing has made it neces- sary for us to give a somewhat wider training to our pupils in engineering than is customary in the colleges and technical schools of the United States. Brazil is a country of such vast dis- tances, such great undertakings in physi- cal improvement, and so few specialists, that the successful engineer must be ready personally to meet any emergency or handle any of the many problems in- cidental to the job in hand. He has to be his own special of experts."

"To meet this situation we have to require the student course in the prepara- tory schools, which are under the jurisdic- tion of Mackenzie. Before the boy can enter the freshman class of the col- lege he must have completed all of this, all of science and all of trigonometry. He must have had two years in laboratory physics, one year in laboratory chemistry, and he must have some working knowledge of two modern languages other than Portuguese, the language of the country in which he will be able to use foreign textbooks."

"President Waddell was asked if Ger- man was not one of the two languages offered in the majority of cases, the question being prompted by the general notion that before the war at least Bra- zil had been practically a German country."

"On the contrary," he replied, "the two languages almost always mean French and English. It has always been so, no appreciable change can be attributed to the European war. French is pre- dominantly the language that cul- tivated Brazilian chose to learn. The proportion of entering students who offer French to those who offer German is ten to one. In almost every case that one is a son of German parents."

"We begin our teaching of French and English with the smallest children in the primary grades, where language teaching always should begin. In the first year of the school the child is expected to acquire a vocabulary of fifty simple for- eign words, and to put them together in such sentences of common, practical use as describe something the child has done. In the second year eighty new words must be added to this vocabulary. In the third year 120 more, giving the child at the end of that period 250 words. In the fourth, or last, year of primary grade the pupil must double this vocabulary, entering grammar school with the ability to use these words of the foreign lan- guage. No textbooks on this subject are used in those primary years."

"Although its entire student body is Brazilian, and its Faculty is cosmopolis- tan, with teachers from Canada, the United States, and various European countries, Mackenzie is in reality an American college, and is so considered in Sao Paulo. It holds its charter from the Regents of New York, and the begin- ning of the educational system of which it is a part was in the foreign missionaries' school established in Sao Paulo by the Presbyterian in 1871. It was in 1901 that the college and high schools were founded on a nonsectarian basis, and in 1895 the primary and grammar schools were transferred to the general system and all made nonsectarian. At the present time there are 120 students in the college, 250 in the high school that prepares pupils for the college, 25 in the commercial high school, and 400 in the primary and grammar schools. Something over 7,000 students have been grad- uated from the college or schools, and 5,000 of those men and women now live in Brazil."

"The fact that all of these students came from Brazilian families is sufficient evidence of the friendliness of the public toward the 'mother school,' because when the State established its normal and model schools, it even offered to give us State appro- priations, but we did not feel at liberty to accept them. The chief obstacle to spreading the ideas of America to the schools of Brazil is the failure of our schools to establish the recognition as a negligible thing."

"Concerning the matter of Union College, President Waddell said that in the course of class this going and coming of the students held out the promise which would serve as a lever and become a great step in the promotion of true Pan-Americanism."

"But," he added, "there is a great deal more in the United States business schools than might do right now to improve the commercial education. The chief obstacle today are the American office boy, who cannot seem to learn that a letter to South America costs 10 cents, and the United States merchants, clever enough to look the other way, but ignorant about everything below the equator."

"There are tens and tens of trade catalogues, circular letters, and other commercial literature stocked up in the past offices of Brazil unrivalled for by the business men to whom they are ad- dressed. They have shown the necessity of efficiency in postage, that what is the advantage of working for its students, whatever his employer, the merchant, is guilty of one blunder after another, due to care- lessness in correspondence. An example, the language of Brazil is Portuguese, but it must be Spanish, and proceeds to have letters and catalogues put into Spanish, and ships them to the United States, and goes out of his way to catch trade by advertising that he stocks his goods in containers suitable for mail transport, and then sends them down in half-ton lots. In short, to the undiscovers, somewhere, in the outer darkness, and that work will be doing in dealing with it."

"Then, you know, is the dishonest mer- chant of the United States, who does un- told damage to Pan-American trade and Pan-American intercourse, and pre- venting business that ships. Fortunately, the de- liberately dishonest trader in this coun- try, who has the most notice taken of in Brazil and Europeans may be easy to do, it is a small matter. But I am afraid that today, that in proportion to the amount of trade, there is more of this swindling performed by commercial house in the United States than in any other country with which Brazil and the United States commerce."

"President Waddell is a Union College man himself, of the class of 1892. His father, Dr. William Waddell, a-fellow-astronomer of the New York State Geo- logical Survey, is a former chief of the Bos- ton State house of the Union. As a result of this survey, he was principally for a while in California, and was a governor of Union College when it was established. He had been the student of Dr. Lane, the President in 1912."