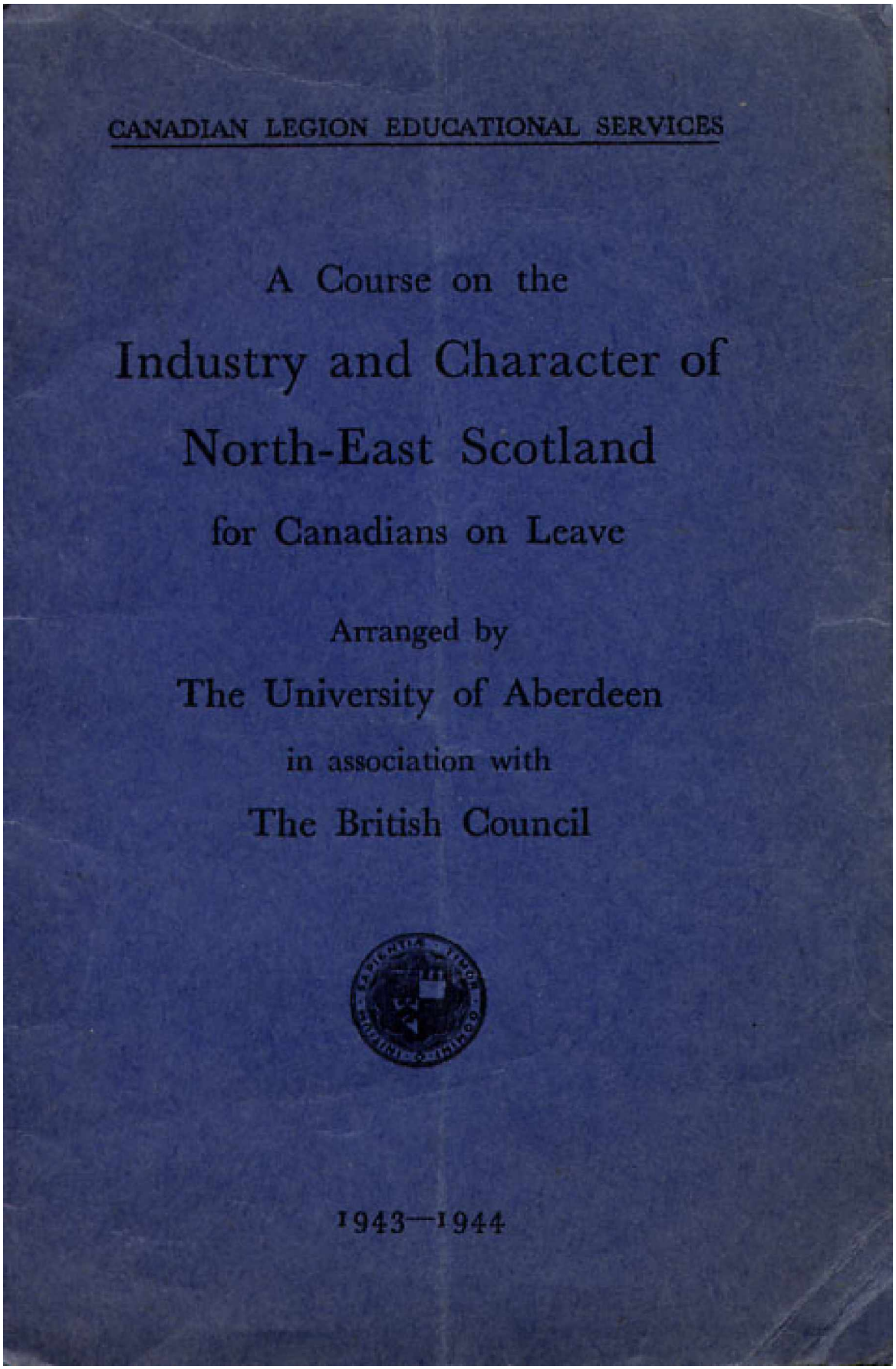
Canadian Legion Educational Services Course Brochure 1943-1944



CANADIAN LEGION EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

A Course on the

Industry and Character of

North-East Scotland

for Canadians on Leave

Arranged by

The University of Aberdeen

in association with

The British Council

1943—1944

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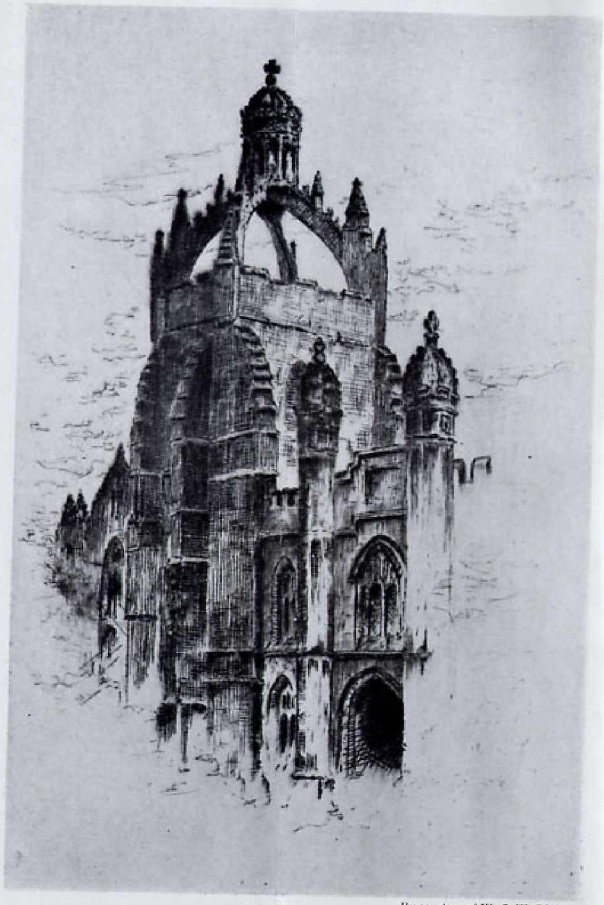

By courtesy of W. & W. Lindsay.

KING'S COLLEGE, ABERDEEN.

The Course, of which this booklet is a programme and souvenir, describes the industries of a part of Scotland which may properly claim to have a character of its own. An attempt is made also to explain the history and characteristics of the people, so many of whom have migrated to Canada and the U.S.A.

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THE CITY OF ABERDEEN

By Lord Provost Sir Thomas Mitchell

All through last century and before, Scotsmen went west across the Atlantic to help build the New World. Between the wars, thousands more went, and not least from this North-Eastern corner of Scotland. You have come back when our need is greatest. You will always be welcome.

Let me tell you something of this city of Aberdeen.

It is of ancient origin. It evolved from a fishing village at the mouth of the River Dee, which by the time our national records began had developed into a progressive seaport with extensive continental connections. The progress of the primitive community was forwarded by the foundation, near the mouth of the River Don, of a religious house by St. Machar, a supposed disciple of St. Columba, and by the subsequent creation of the bishopric of Aberdeen early in the twelfth century. David I granted the inhabitants certain corporate privileges which were confirmed in a charter by his grandson, William the Lion, in 1179. This charter, along with a number of other Royal charters, including one from King Robert the Bruce, is still preserved in the Town House.

Even in mediaeval times the city was a place of great national importance as a fortified town with a castle. The burghers supported Robert the Bruce who, in 1319, conveyed to them in recompense large estates adjoining the city. Many of the citizens supported the Chevalier in 1715 and Prince Charles Edward in 1745 in their endeavours to restore the Stuart dynasty, and indeed the whole area, of which the city is the natural centre, was largely Jacobite in those stirring times.

The University of Aberdeen embraces two colleges, King's and Marischal, which up to 1860 were two Universities, but Principal Sir William Fyfe himself will be telling you more of this institution of which we citizens are justly proud.

Aberdeen is the centre of a great agricultural district famous over the whole world for the excellence of its products. The Aberdeen-Angus and Shorthorn cattle of Aberdeenshire which are still the source of London's best meat, were the progenitors of many of the great herds of Texas and the Argentine. In the Rowett Institute, under the direction of Sir John Boyd Orr, we have an establishment which has carried out important research in problems of animal nutrition. The Macaulay Institute, founded by the late Thomas B. Macaulay of Montreal, does valuable work in Soil Research, so that our agriculture has the blessings both of good farmers and able scientists.

Aberdeen started as a fishing village, and fishing is still the principal industry of the city. Landings of fish are the third largest in the country. A fleet of 280 trawlers operates from the port in peace-time, but many of these vessels are on active service to-day. Fish are caught by Aberdeen trawlers in waters as far as Iceland, and the problem of keeping the catch in good condition is one of the main subjects of study of the Fishery Research Institute at Torry, on the south bank of the Dee.

Aberdeen is almost as famous for its granite as for its deplorable reputation of prodigious thrift. London Bridge and the Thames Embankment are built of our granite, and this stone has been exported to countries all over the world. Much of it comes from what I believe is the biggest quarry in the country, that at Rubislaw in the western part of the city. It is over four hundred feet deep and has been worked for more than a hundred and sixty years. The port of Aberdeen is an important centre

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of trade with the Baltic and Northern Europe, and in addition to these basic industries there are textiles and paper-making in the city.

The forests of the North of Scotland have provided a vital munition in our national emergency. Canadians, Newfoundlanders and British Hondurans are foremost in the prosecution of this war-time industry.

Our population is over 180,000 and the social well-being of the people reaches a high level. The cultural and commercial interests of the citizens are so happily balanced that the ancient motto of the city—" Bon-Accord "—has, even at the present day, happy and appropriate significance.

Programme

May 22 — May 27, 1944

NOTE.—*The Assembly point for all excursions is the Quadrangle, Marischal College, with the exception of the visit to the Fish Market, which will start from the foot of Market Street.*

Programme

Monday, 22nd May 1944.

4 p.m. Assemble in Students' Union.
Welcome by the Principal of the University, Sir WILLIAM H. FYFE, M.A., LL.D., F.R.S.C.

4.30 p.m. Tea.

8 p.m. *The Background of the North-East.*
By W. DOUGLAS SIMPSON, M.A., D.Litt.

Tuesday, 23rd May.

9.30 a.m. Visit to St. Machar's Cathedral and King's College, Old Aberdeen, accompanied by Dr. W. DOUGLAS SIMPSON.

11.15 a.m. Tea in the Sports Pavilion, King's College.

12.45 p.m. Lunch in Students' Union.

2 p.m. Visit to Grandholm Woollen Mills.
Tea at the invitation of the Management.
Return via Brig o' Balgownie.

Wednesday, 24th May.

9 a.m. Visit to the gardens and interior of Crathes Castle, by permission of Major-General Sir JAMES L. BURNETT OF LEYS, K.C.B., C.M.G., accompanied by Dr. W. DOUGLAS SIMPSON.

11 a.m. The party will proceed westwards up the valley of the Dee. Short talks will be given on Forestry and Land Utilization in the district by Professor H. M. STEVEN, M.A., B.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.S.E., of the Chair of Forestry.

12.30 p.m. Lunch at the Loirston Hotel, Ballater.

Wednesday, 24th May—*continued.*

2.15 p.m. Visit to the grounds of Balmoral Castle.
The party will be conducted by Major H. D. ROSS, M.V.O., King's Commissioner.

4.15 p.m. Visit to Crathie Church.

6 p.m. High Tea at Birse Lodge Hotel, Aboyne.

Thursday, 25th May.

8.30 a.m. Visit to the Fish Market, accompanied by representatives of the Fishing Industry.

9.45 a.m. Refreshments at the invitation of the Trawler Owners' Association.

10.30 a.m. Visit to the Marine Research Station of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Torry.
Research in the Preservation of Fish as Food.—Film and talks by G. A. REAY, M.A., B.Sc., Ph.D.; A. BANKS, B.Sc., Ph.D., A.I.C.; J. M. SHEWAN, B.Sc., Ph.D.; and C. L. CUTTING, B.Sc., Ph.D.

12.30 p.m. Lunch in the British Restaurant, Castlehill.

2.15 p.m. *Canada and Scotland.*
By Professor A. S. FERGUSON, M.A., of the Chair of Logic. Questions and discussion. (In the Court Room, Marischal College.)

NOTE.—In the evening, members of the Course who are interested in Social Service are cordially invited to visit St. Katherine's Club, West North Street, at 8 p.m.

3.30 p.m. Reception by Lord Provost in Town House.

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Friday, 26th May.

10 a.m. Visit to Rubislaw Granite Quarries.

12.15 p.m. Lunch in Students' Union.

2 p.m. Visit to the Rowett Research Institute and Duthie Experimental Stock Farm, Bucksburn.

Talks by Sir JOHN BOYD ORR, D.S.O., M.C., M.A., M.D., D.Sc., F.R.S.; GEORGE DONALD, B.Sc.(Agr.); and A. CRICHTON, M.A., B.Sc. (Agr.).

Tea at the invitation of the Rowett Research Institute.

7.15 p.m. Dinner in Students' Union at the invitation of the University.

8.30 p.m. Brains Trust on Scotland:—Sir WILLIAM H. FYFE, Question Master; Professor R. S. AITKEN, M.D., D.Phil., F.R.C.P. (Medicine); ALEXANDER KEITH, M.A. (Journalism); Miss M. E. MITCHELL, M.A. (Training Centre for Teachers); W. DOUGLAS SIMPSON, M.A., D.Litt. (University Librarian); T. S. WESTOLL, D.Sc., Ph.D. (Geology); and Professor F. C. ROE, M.A., L.-ès-L. (French).

Saturday, 27th May.

Members of the Course are invited to visit on this day libraries, museums, laboratories, Mitchell Hall and Tower at Marischal College, Medical School at Foresterhill or other places of interest. Those desirous of doing so should intimate their wishes to Mr. J. A. DAWSON not later than WEDNESDAY afternoon, so that arrangements may be made.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

By Sir WILLIAM FYFE, *Principal and Vice-Chancellor*

WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN!

I WRITE these few lines as a way of introducing ourselves to you. We are an institution of respectable antiquity. Indeed we are in a sense two institutions of respectable antiquity. What happened is this.

In the year 1494 William Elphinstone, Bishop of Aberdeen, having obtained the sanction of the Pope for the foundation of a University in Aberdeen, proceeded to build King's College, and finished it just at the century's close. On the beautiful Crown Tower of King's College Chapel you will see a Latin inscription declaring that the builders finished the job in the year 1500 in the reign of King James IV of Scotland, described as "invictissimus"—the "most unconquerable"—which was unfortunate, as fourteen years later he fell at Flodden, the greatest defeat which Scotland ever suffered.

King's College was, you see, an ecclesiastical foundation under the shelter of St. Machar's Cathedral, another ancient building which I think you will admire.

The sixteenth century saw the development of the Reformation and the growth in Scotland of a large party hostile to the Church of Rome. It was a leader of this party, George Keith, hereditary Earl Marischal of Scotland, who founded in 1593 a rival University, Marischal College (we pronounce it Marshall; you will be used by now to these Old Country tricks), obtaining his authority not, of course, in this case from the Pope (like the members of Orange Lodges in Ontario, he probably said "To Hell

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with the Pope" every night at bedtime) but from the Scots Parliament.

Thus for two and a half centuries there were in this city of Aberdeen two separate Universities—as many as there were in the whole of England. They both professed to teach Theology, Law, Medicine and "the Liberal Arts," and each stoutly defended its independence. Charles I tried to unite them and was wholly unsuccessful —but it was for other reasons that he had his head cut off.

In 1860, the two Colleges were at last united. King's and Marischal are now just two buildings of the University of Aberdeen. King's College is the home of the Faculty of Arts (Languages, Philosophy, History, Mathematics, Economics, etc.) and of the Faculty of Divinity. There, too, are the University Chapel, the main Library, the playing fields and the swimming pool. In Marischal College are the departments of the Science Faculty (excepting Botany and Forestry, housed in separate buildings near the Cathedral in Old Aberdeen) and also two departments of the Faculty of Medicine (Anatomy and Physiology), and the administrative offices of the University.

The rest of the Medical Faculty, Surgery, Medicine, Midwifery and so on, are about a mile away in a new building on the campus of the Royal Infirmary at Foresterhill, and there also we have built a hostel where medical students live during their final year, so that (I have heard it said) no patient in the Infirmary may die without assistance from them.

We have no other hostels. Students live either in lodgings or at home, and are inclined in true Scottish fashion to be jealous of their independence. In normal times there are about 1,200 of them. During the war the number of Medicals is normal; they are all "reserved" until they are qualified for the R.A.M.C. In Science the

numbers have increased, since the Government offers special war-time scholarships (we Scots call them bursaries) for Engineering, Radio Physics and Chemistry. All the Science students are being trained for service in some technical capacity in the Forces or in Industry, wherever they are most needed.

In the Faculty of Arts there are now no men except those under military age and a few unfit for military service. But the number of women students is nearly normal, since those who intend to take post-graduate training either for teaching or in Social Science are exempt from national service.

Since a degree in Arts is a necessary condition of entry to the Faculties of Divinity and Law, these also are seriously depleted during the war.

Besides the students working in degree courses we receive batches of cadets in the R.A. or the R.A.F. who are drafted to us for special courses of six months before being trained for Commissions. With these cadets our numbers are about 200 less than the normal figure.

All students, unless exempt on medical grounds, must serve in the Senior Training Corps or in the University Air Squadron, and take their share of duty as Fire Guards at night; moreover, if their diligence or progress is not satisfactory they are extruded from the University with a severity unknown in time of peace. So they lead a strenuous life, but nevertheless find time for football and hockey (ground hockey I should say). for cricket and tennis, for music and drama and for interminable discussion,—yes, and for dances too. For, as I have already hinted, we have our "co-eds" and are proud of them. So life is merry, despite the lowering presence of Professors and Lecturers, who herd the young along the narrow path of learning and find their own recreation in various abstruse forms of scientific or literary research.

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In the list of University Officers, if you were to look at it, you would read of two who have no concern with academic studies. The Chancellor, some "grave and reverend signor" of high distinction, who presides over the conferment of degrees (the Office is at present vacant), and the Rector. And hereby hangs another bit of history. To the mediaeval Universities of the Continent came students from all over Europe, and the City Fathers—of Bologna, it might be, or of Paris—often oppressed them with unjust taxation. So they elected some eminent person whom they called their Rector, to defend their rights, and the votes were taken by nations, British, German, Italian and so on. In Aberdeen that mediaeval custom still survives. Every three years the students, voting by "nations" according to the districts in which they live, elect as Rector someone whom they admire and on whom they feel they could call to defend their interests and resist the unjust aggression of—well, it might be of the Principal. The present Rector is the Right Hon. Sir Stafford Cripps, the Minister of Aircraft Production.

If you should want to know any more about the University of Aberdeen, I shall be most gladly at your service.

The Aberdeen University Press.