

## NOTES AND MEMORANDA

### OBITUARIES

#### *Alfred Burpee Balcom, 1876-1943*

Professor A. B. Balcom, Head of the Department of Economics in Acadia University, died on September 21, 1943, at the age of 67. Born at Nictaux Falls in 1876, he received his B.A. from Acadia University in 1907 and his M.A. from Harvard in 1909. After serving as an assistant in economics at Harvard and as an instructor at the University of Minnesota, he was appointed in 1913 to the chair in Economics and Sociology in Acadia University. He was also appointed Registrar of the University, a position which he held until 1925. In 1930 Acadia University conferred on him the honorary degree of D.C.L.

A follower of Marshall and Taussig, Professor Balcom was nevertheless alive to the implications of "welfare" economics and the "institutional" approach. The *Athenaeum* pays him this tribute: "As a teacher, his sound thinking, balanced judgment, and unique style of presentation won for him the admiration and love of his students. Economics under 'Chirpie' became no longer a 'course' of intricate and complicated rules and systems, but rather an easily understood and vital subject with unlimited fields for research and possibilities for a life work."

In 1925 the Pollak Foundation offered a prize for the best adverse criticism of *Profits* by Messrs. Foster and Catchings. The judges were Wesley Mitchell, Allyn Young, and Owen D. Young. The prize went to R. W. Souter of New Zealand. Alfred Balcom was amongst those who were honourably mentioned, along with Alvin Hansen, Calvin Hoover, P. W. Martin, and one or two others. (See *Pollak Prize Essays*, Pollak Foundation for Economic Research, Newton, Mass., 1927.)

Professor Balcom took an active part in civic politics. He was more than once mayor of Wolfville. He was a member of the Nova Scotia Economic Council from its inception, and succeeded Dr. Stanley MacKenzie as its chairman in 1938. [I. M. M.]

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

- "Why All Tariffs are Evil" (*Dalhousie Review*, vol. IV, Jan., 1925, pp. 476-84).  
"Agriculture in Nova Scotia since 1870" (*ibid.*, vol. VIII, April, 1928, pp. 29-43).  
"The Jones Report: An Interpretation" (*ibid.*, vol. XV, April, 1935, pp. 1-13).  
"The Automatic Gold Standard and the Necessary Modifications" (*Papers and Proceedings of the Canadian Political Science Association*, vol. IV, 1932, pp. 123-38).

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#### *John W. Dafoe, 1866-1944*

In the death of John W. Dafoe the Canadian Political Science Association has lost a past president and one of its most distinguished members. Although prevented by age and indifferent health from attending in recent years the annual conferences of the various learned societies, he