

# A Slight Increase in Enrollment

## Dr. Behan Compliments Alumni on the Fine Cooperation Given Student Campaign

Ottawa University is one of the two schools in Kansas to show any sort of an increase. The College of Emporia had a few more students than last year. In several other schools there were tremendous losses. That proves the value of Ottawa's intensive campaign.

Your alma mater has had a perceptible and gratifying increase in its regular student enrollment for the fall semester and a decided increase in its total enrollment for the summer and fall terms over the corresponding period over last year.

What concerns me here is the fine cooperation given by our alumni to the student campaign during this year. Sixteen out of 120 new students have definitely indicated that alumni are primarily responsible for their being here. Many others point to alumni as a helpful contributory factor in the enlistment of their attendance, and why not. Who else so well knows student life and college opportunities and campus values as those who have been under the nurture of their alma mater and if they cannot bring this help and do not bear enthusiastic testimony to the worthwhileness of student life in Ottawa, then something is radically wrong either with the university or with the alumni. We are proud of the cooperation and enthusiasm of our alumni.

Here are some of the ways you have been helping. Alumni have held conferences with prospective students; alumni have given parties for prospective students both in homes and in churches and have invited them to their banquets; alumni have personally brought students to Ottawa to see the campus, witness its activities and meet the acting president and faculty; alumni have gladly given us the names of prospective students along with much valuable information concerning these prospects. In these and many other ways has your assistance come.

Printed material and official representation can furnish needed information on costs, courses, etc., but you, out of your personal experience, have given personal confirmation to what has been said in our literature and in such an effective manner as to produce both the desire for and conviction of the kind of life and study Ottawa offers.

I desire here to express my hearty appreciation of all that you have done and just as earnestly urge you to continue and even increase this type of cooperation. I have no hesitation in saying that no matter what the endowment to which we may

bring Ottawa University we exist primarily for students and while I am convinced that we can never successfully fulfill our high aim if we should expand to a huge enrollment, nevertheless it is absolutely necessary in order to utilize our present equipment and instructional personnel to the utmost as well as to increase our income, that we have a registration of 400 to 500 as soon as possible.

To accomplish this is no easy task. If we should maintain only a 10% increase annually it would take us 5 years to raise the enrollment to 400 and 7 years to bring it to 500. We must not wait this long. There is need, therefore, for collective and heroic work to achieve this goal within a shorter length of time. Why not bend ourselves to the enrollment of 400 students in the regular sessions of the year by the fall of 1934?

**It can be done**, it has been done by other colleges and I know we have in our students and alumni as loyal and persuasive a group as you can find anywhere. It is too much to expect that every loyal alumnus set as his or her objective one new student each year for old O. U.? We have over 1300 living alumni, many of them obviously will not be able to meet this objective because of the long distance they are from us but even so the mail man can be used as an effective intermediary.

This is not an appeal for funds but this is an appeal for your interest, prayers, and effort which everyone is able to give and to begin now. Our next registration will come the last of January. For some weeks we have been working for the increase in registration for the second semester. We are expecting a decided increase from all the encouragements which we have had and we are aiming at an additional registration of 50. There are new students who could begin work in the second semester, former students who ought to return and complete their work—urge them to do so. Show them how it can be done, write us for help, send us the names of prospects and let us all attempt even yet to raise our enrollment so we can bring the total to about 300 for next semester.

Our total enrollment from all sources for the summer, fall, and spring sessions, 1931-32 was 301. Already with the spring semester yet to come we have a total for the summer and fall of regular, music and extension students, of 368. However, both you and I are chiefly interested in those students who are registered for fall and spring sessions. It is this number to which we ought to bring our additions.

Sincerely appreciating your loyalty in the past and counting upon it in even greater measure for the days ahead, we can face the future with courage and confidence.—Dr. W. P. Behan.