GENERAL NEWS

Dr. Alexander E. Kerr

PRESIDENT, 1945-63

Dr. Alexander E. Kerr, president and vice-chancellor of Dalhousie University from 1945 until 1963, died in Halifax on Nov. 30, at the age of 76.

A memorial service was held last week at Fort Massey United Church, and attended by Lieutenant-Governor C. L. Gosse and Mrs. Gosse; Nova Scotia Chief Justice Ian M. MacKeigan; Archbishop James Hayes; MLAs; Dr. Henry D. Hicks, president of Dalhousie, and Donald McInnes, QC, chairman of the university Board of Governors, in addition to members of the family and friends.

Dr. Kerr was born in Louisbourg, Cape Breton. During the latter part of the First World War, he enlisted in the Royal Air Force and went overseas. After his return, he graduated from Dalhousie in arts, and then from Pine Hill in theology. He was ordained to the Christian ministry in 1921. He subsequently went to Union Seminary, where he received his bachelor of divinity, magna cum laude.

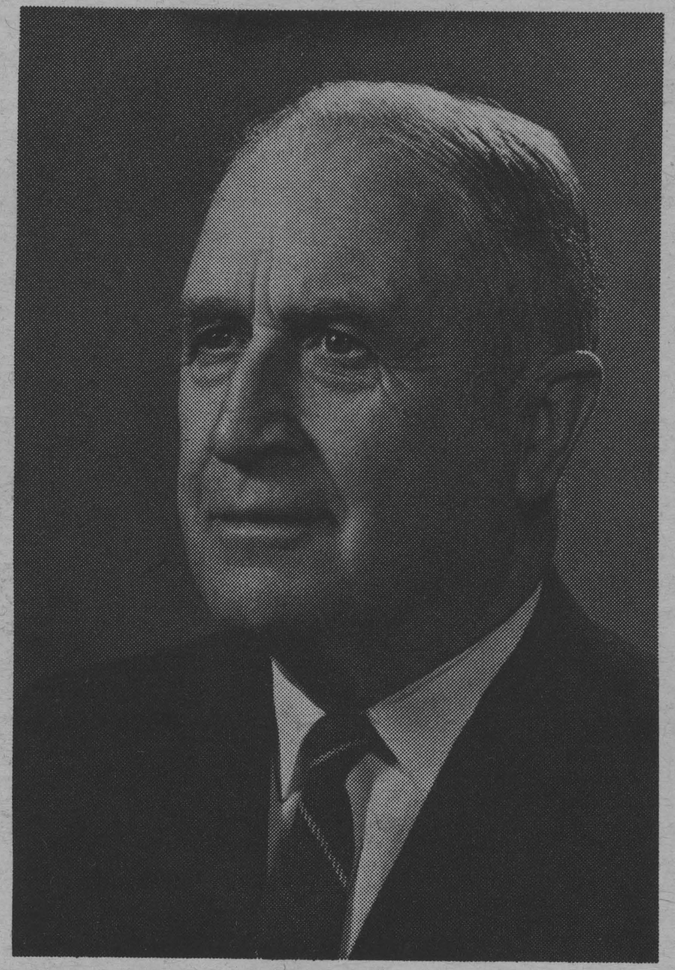
He served the church briefly in Sydney and Montreal, and then accepted pastorates in Vancouver, where he served five years, and in Winnipeg, where he served 10. He left Winnipeg to become principal and professor of systematic theology at Pine Hill. After six years in that office, he was invited in 1945 to become president of Dalhousie.

Since his retirement from the university, Dr. Kerr had been president of the Maritime Conference of the United Church of Canada, and taught the first class in Old Testament at the Atlantic School of Theology. The school was formerly Pine Hill Divinity College from which Dr. Kerr was a graduate.

Also since his retirement, Dr. Kerr was presented an honorary doctorate of divinity at the 500th anniversary of the University of Glasgow, Scotland. He was the only Canadian so honored at the anniversary convocation. He also held honorary degrees from many universities in the Maritimes and from Winnipeg.

He was also a member of the North British Society; first honorary president of the Red Cross Society; a member of the Canadian Mental Health Association; chairman of the building committee for the Abbie J. Lane Memorial Hospital; and honorary president of the Cape Breton Club.

He was nominated by the Maritime Conference of the United Church, by the Montreal-Ottawa Conference, by the London Conference, and by various other bodies, to become moderator of the general council of the church during his early years at Dalhousie, but declined the nomination.



A Great Talent