

The opinion of the College Council on this and other Professorships, in answer to question No. 40, is given in the Appendix, by reference to which it will be seen that no argument for the continuance of these Chairs is urged; but it is simply stated that they "do not feel themselves at liberty to express an opinion on the changes suggested in these questions, pointing as they do to the removal of some members of their own body."

The Professorship of Meteorology cannot be regarded as a legitimate expenditure of College funds. This chair is filled by a gentleman of eminent ability and scientific attainments, but his duties are almost entirely in connection with the Provincial Magnetic Observatory, and but few students are found to avail themselves of his valuable instructions.

Reference to the accounts in the appendix will show that a large amount of University funds have been expended for the sole benefit of the Observatory, as for instance:

In the year 1858, building Cottages and balance of incidentals..... \$5020

In the year 1859, building Director's residence..... 4340

The Commissioners, therefore, respectfully recommend that Government be applied to, with the view of obtaining adequate compensation for the above expenditures, and that the salary of the Professor, of which \$680 per annum is charged to University funds, be entirely met by the grant annually made to the Observatory.

The Commissioners feel themselves the more at liberty to make this recommendation, as they observe that the Government appropriation for the support of the Observatory has for the last two years more than paid the charge against it, so that on the 31st of December, 1861, there remained an unexpended balance of \$764.18, and there can therefore be no good grounds for continuing to charge any part of the Director's salary against University funds.

While admitting the importance of the several branches of Natural science, for instruction in which the Chairs of Natural Philosophy, Natural History, Mineralogy and Geology have been established, the Commissioners are of opinion that, as vacancies occur, it will be found quite possible to reduce the number of Professorships by combination, without lessening the efficiency of University College below the proper standard, or rendering it less competent to prepare students for passing the University examinations. In British Universities, the number of Professorships have been multiplied by private liberality far beyond what is possible in Canada, and it must be borne in mind that already the income is exceeded, and that retrenchment is an absolute necessity. It would be manifestly unjust to deprive any Professor now in office of the Chair to which he has been appointed, and the Commissioners do not recommend any change which would have this effect. The changes referred to can be made hereafter as fitting opportunities occur, and the surplus income thus gained to the College can be applied to meet other claims upon the funds, and more especially such increase in the number of Professors or Tutorships as will be called for, by the enlarged sphere of usefulness which the College may fairly be expected to occupy in affording academic instruction to the youth of this prosperous and growing country.

The Commissioners avail themselves of the opinions expressed by the late Vice-Chancellor before the Committee of the House of Assembly upon these several heads.

Mr. Langton says: "It is therefore only against the number of Professors that there can be any cause of complaint, and Dr. Cook's proposition is to reduce them by striking off five, viz: History and English Literature, Modern Languages, Agriculture, Meteorology and Oriental Languages, and by combining the present three Professorships in the Natural Sciences into two. To a certain extent I agree with Dr. Cook, but on other points I differ from him entirely. I do not believe that the Professorships of Agriculture, which have been established either here or in any other University, have answered the expectations of those who founded them, and I do not think that it is the nature of the subject that they should. Meteorology is also too limited a subject to form an exclusive Chair, and all that is necessary of it might well be taught by the Professor of allied Sciences. The subject has been introduced into the University course, but only as an optional one, not because it was considered an essential part of Academical study, but because there was a Chair in the College, and it was thought some Undergraduates might wish to pursue the study, especially those who were intending to teach Grammar Schools, in which a system of meteorological observations has been established. I think it was a mistake to connect the Observatory with the College; but as long as