

Exhibition Building, which it agreed to remove from the ground within seventy-five days, and which it has since sold to the purchaser of the land.

In this absolute absence of right or capacity to make a judicial claim the Council of Arts and Manufactures seeks to obtain a title by Legislation.

The Royal Institution has no fear of the final result of testing the whole matter in a Court of Law, but a protracted litigation would be very injurious to it. The interest on the purchase money of the property which has been sold would be unavailable probably for years, and the University would be thus deprived of a large resource upon which it is greatly dependent for paying its professors. This loss, with the sums which must be sunk in law expenses, will cause serious and permanent embarrassment and materially cripple its Educational work, if not permanently, at least for a long time to come.

The Royal Institution objects to any Legislation which will change the relation or *status* of the parties, as unjust and arbitrary, and a palpable usurpation of the functions of the Courts of Law. And it claims that this question of acquired rights, which has already been brought before the Courts, shall be left to be dealt with by the proper tribunals of the country.

The Legal reasons briefly assigned are (among others) the following :

1. The Legislature cannot take away acquired rights either directly or indirectly. It is *ultra vires*.
2. There is no object in passing an Act other than to help the Council of Arts and Manufactures to bring an action against McGill University which it has not now the right to bring.
3. By the proposed Legislation the status of the parties will be changed, and a title now legally vested