

*McC's survey -*

November 20, 1930.

The year 1930, the close of a decade and of the first ten years of my Principalship, would seem a fitting time for a general stock-taking of McGill's position.

I take this opportunity of expressing my sincere appreciation of the untiring devotion of McGill instructors and professors. In my opinion, no class deserves so well of the community and hardly any other class is so ill requited.

What is contemplated is neither an inquisition into the relative failures and accomplishments of individual teachers and various departments, nor yet a glorification of isolated achievements with which we may advertise ourselves to the world.

What will be attempted is to find out how we are moving, and whether our movement is in the right direction. The University is an "institution"; that is, it comes into being at a given time, in given circumstances, with a view to accomplishing certain results. But time goes on, circumstances change, and inevitably the institution must adapt itself, even though its original ideals remain fixed. For the wrenches and dislocations of such a process no one is specifically to blame. Everyone interested has often to make the best of a bad job. Consequently, it is not so much on past failures and present difficulties that attention should be concentrated, except in so far as these are illuminating on the task of the future.

Let us make therefore a survey, not merely of the accomplishments, but also of the tendencies and the opportunities, particularly opportunities that are, for one reason or another, not being seized.