

MEMORANDUM OF NEW GYMNASIUM FOR PRESENTATION AT MEETING
OF STUDENTS' COUNCIL AND STUDENTS' ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.
January 16, 1922

INTRODUCTION

The erection of a Gymnasium is not quite as simple as it would at first seem. I have had the doubtful pleasure of being either Chairman or member of Committees erecting five different gymnasiums including swimming baths and related to dormitories. Also visited similar gymnasiums in Ottawa, Quebec, St. John, Toronto, Winnipeg, Detroit, Buffalo, Indianapolis, Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Brooklyn, Washington, Penn University and Princeton. Gym plans studied in 1913, 1914 intermittently till 1920. New Committee in January 1921 met weekly for two months, each meeting lasting at least two hours and meeting again a number of times last November and December. At the risk of wearying you I am going to give a short outline of the history of the study.

MACDONALD PARK Purpose: Centre of student life. Plans prepared.

Study revealed an interesting but difficult proposition. The lay out included Dormitories, dining hall, stadium, gymnasium and hockey rink. Development of the plans presented many problems, - the entrances, the heavy grades, the rock excavations, the location of so large a feature as the Stadium, the grouping together of features closely co-relative to each other, such as the Dormitories and dining rooms, the stadium and dressing rooms, the gymnasium and swimming bath. A rough estimate of the completed programme amounted to \$5,000,000 without any endowment provision.

Whereas the Board wisely, I believe, considered it absolutely imperative to have a unified plan for the entire lay-out of the property, which might be gradually developed, none were so sanguine as to even prophesy a date when the undertaking might be completed, and a few were so hopeful as to think that it would not be modified or even materially changed in view of possible future developments and a further study of the problem.

THE STADIUM

The Stadium was the most spectacular feature and perhaps the one in which the Graduates were most keenly interested. A small group of Graduates submitted to the Governors a request that the University should advance the cost of the erection of the Stadium, which they would guarantee both as to principal and interest, the expense of which they hoped would be met by the large gate receipts. The Board promptly agreed, the money was advanced, and the erection was completed. Unfortunately the War intervened, and the guarantee of the Graduates was never legally completed. Mr. Percival Molson one of the, if not the prime mover in the matter, when back from the war badly wounded and feeling his personal responsibility in the matter, made a clause in his Will leaving \$75,000 to be devoted towards the cost of the Stadium. As we all sincerely and deeply regret, Mr. Molson on his return to France, was killed and the legacy was paid to the University.