

number of models in mining and metallurgy have been purchased by means of a liberal donation from a lady of this city.

In the Faculty of Arts we have to regret the absence of Rev. Dr. De Sola, Professor of Hebrew and Oriental Literature, whose health obliges him to remain in Europe for the winter. We trust that he may soon be able to resume his important labors, and, in the meantime, the Hebrew classes have been placed under the care of Mr. Duff, whose studies, both here and in Germany, eminently fit him for this work.

In the Department of Applied Science, the University has lost the valuable services of Professor Armstrong, who has accepted the office of Professor of Engineering in the Yorkshire College of Science, England. With the view of giving ample time to candidates for the vacant chair, temporary arrangements have been made whereby Mr. Ernest N. Harris, Civil Engineer, has been engaged to deliver the lectures in engineering in the present session, while Mr. C. H. McLeod, previously assistant to the Professor of Engineering, has been appointed lecturer in surveying and drawing.

In order to provide more fully for the mathematical instruction in the Department of Applied Science, Archibald Duff, M.A., was appointed at the beginning of the session Lecturer in Mathematics, and the special care of the junior classes was confided to him under the Professor of Mathematics.

After carefully weighing the merits of the several candidates, the Governors have decided, with Your Excellency's approval, on the appointment of Henry P. Bovey, C.E., M.A. of Cambridge, and at present Assistant Engineer on the Mersey Docks, to the Chair of Civil Engineering and Applied Mechanics; his duties to commence at the beginning of next session.

We have pleasure in stating that by request of the University, a change has been made in the act for Provincial Land Surveyors in the Province of Quebec, whereby students may enter for their preliminary examinations at any time before the expiry of the second year of their college course.

We referred in our last report to the increasing need of a special building for the accommodation of the Department of Applied Science, and also for our Geological Museum, now arrested in its growth for want of space, and for the display of our models and apparatus. The circumstances of the University have not as yet permitted anything to be done to supply this want. It is hoped that some of our friends may take the matter into consideration, and also the need of a permanent endowment for this important Department.

We observe with regret that by an Act passed at the last Session of the Quebec Legislature, powers of a most extraordinary kind are vested in the Superintendent of Education, in connection with a school lately established by the Roman Catholic School Commissioners of the city of Montreal, with reference to the issue of what are called Engineer's Diplomas. Two or more commissioners, for whose qualifications no guarantee is given, but who are simply to be appointed "each year" by the Lieutenant Governor on report of the Superintendent, with the title of "Commissioners of the Polytechnic School," are to examine its pupils and report to him upon the result and upon the classing of the pupils; and in accordance with such report he is "to deliver to such pupil having followed a complete course of studies in the said Polytechnic School and having passed a satisfactory examination before the said commissioners, an Engineer's Diploma," "either as Civil Engineer, Mining Engineer, Mechanical Engineer, or Industrial Engineer," such diploma stating whether the pupil passed "merely in a satisfactory manner, or with distinction, or with great distinction, or lastly, with the highest distinction." The names

are to be published in the Quebec *Official Gazette*, with mention of the grade of each diploma; and pupils now at the school are held to pass their future examination only before the Commissioners.

Feeling that such legislation could not but tend strongly towards a lowering of the standard of Engineering Education, and so of the efficiency and standing of our engineers of all classes, we felt it our duty to remonstrate against it. But as the bill was not in print till within a very few days of the prorogation, we were unable to get our petition before the Assembly until after these provisions had passed beyond the range of its discussion. We can only trust that the good sense of the community will yet in its own way provide a remedy, and will in the meantime sustain and aid us in the earnest effort we have been and still are making, by means of our Department of Applied Science, in the opposite direction.

The observations in the Meteorological Observatory have been continued throughout the year in connection with the Dominion weather signals, by Mr. C. H. McLeod as Superintendent, with the assistance of G. H. Chandler, B.A.

We have much pleasure in stating that the Government of Quebec, in response to our urgent request, has directed the required additions to the Normal School building to be made. One wing has been completed, and the other is in progress. These additions will enable the work of the model schools to be carried on much more satisfactorily than formerly, and will also give additional waiting rooms and other much-needed accommodation to the Normal School.

While these improvements are in progress, some temporary inconvenience will be felt, more especially in connection with the Boys' Model School; but in the next session, their effects will be fully experienced, and may be expected to give a great and beneficial impulse to the work of the school.

Mr. James Duncan, who has occupied the position of teacher of drawing in the Normal School since its commencement, has been relieved from the duties of this office, with a retiring allowance in consideration of his long and faithful services; and Mr. Harrington Bird, late of London, England, and now Instructor in drawing to the schools of the Protestant Commissioners, has been appointed to the office of Instructor in drawing.

The attention of the Corporation has been called to an order of the Board of Trade in England, whereby Canadian surgeons are excluded from serving in the steamships trading between this country and Great Britain. A letter on this subject has already been addressed by the Principal and the Dean of the Medical Faculty to the Honorable the Premier, asking for the intervention of your Excellency's Government, in order that the rights of Canadian medical graduates in this matter may be respected. Believing that no inferiority with regard to this service can attach to the medical men trained in this country, we trust that on the facts being represented, this offensive and apparently unnecessary order may be rescinded.

On the whole we have to express our gratitude to God for our exemption from any serious loss or calamity during the year, for the good conduct and progress of our students, and for the kindness and aid we have experienced in the prosecution of our work. If we have any cause for sorrow it is in the inadequacy of the means at our disposal to meet as fully as we could wish the growing educational wants of this country, which are undoubtedly making demands upon us which would require increased means and a more numerous staff.

Signed on behalf of the Corporation of the McGill University.

CHAS. D. DAT, LL.D, Chancellor.