

AN AMAZING APPOINTMENT

Matters of education are usually outside the scope of this journal. It is concerned with them normally only in so far as technical education with those branches, with which The Chronicle is particularly associated, is concerned. But at this time, it cannot fail to express astonishment at the extraordinary step taken by the Governors of McGill University in appointing General Currie as Principal.

That General Currie has unusual qualifications of leadership and a marked capacity for organization, his remarkable war record shows. But are these sufficient qualifications for the headship of McGill? It seems to us that if Academic distinction is not absolutely essential, at least there is needed in this position a mind steeped in the finest culture to make its leadership worth following, and its organization the means to a high intellectual end.

Impartial observers have before now noticed the tendency of some Canadian Universities to become merely big technical schools, and the failure of McGill to make any impression, upon the intellectual life of the English-speaking portion of Montreal outside its walls, is notorious. The new regime does not hold much promise in this connection. McGill will, no doubt, be well and efficiently run in a business like manner, it will turn out so many graduates every year, more or less equipped to earn a living by a profession.

But will it give those graduates, the highest ideals of a cultured and intellectual life, and set an example to the Philistines around of that education which someone once defined as "what remains when one has forgotten everything one ever learnt"?

WESTERN CANADA COLONIZATION ASSOCIATION

Readers of the daily newspapers have within the past few days become aware of a propaganda initiated by the Western Canada Colonization Association, which promise results of incalculable importance to the financial interests of this country. It is a movement backed by every solid business man and every enlightened leader of public thought in the West and since its projectors came East early this month they have met with astonishing success in awakening the practical interest of leaders of industry, and finance.

The great object aimed at, is that of bringing into settlement and production 20,000,000 acres of vacant lands lying within twenty miles of existing railroads in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The fact that these lands, for which Canada has spent hundreds of millions of dollars in providing transportation facilities, are still uncultivated is due to the fact that in the rush to buy Western lands,

large desirable tracts fell into the hands of private owners, who for one reason or another have failed to farm them, and are for the most part "absentee landlords."

The Western Canada Colonization Association proposes not merely to secure settlers and force vacant holdings into cultivation, but by advice and support educate the incoming settler in citizenship and help him to make the best use of his opportunity. Its aims are the reverse of those of the land-boomster since it will endeavor to secure the land for the actual wealth producer at as low a rate as possible. Its projectors are convinced that the looseness of boom methods have done great injury to the West in the past; and the go-as-you-please policy of allowing the new-comer to shift for himself is responsible for many grave economic and political problems which effect all Canada to-day.

Anyone who has looked into the matter at all, at once recognizes the economic waste involved in allowing an acreage of vast extent and easy of access for export and import, to remain idle; but the condition of private ownership makes it one with which the Government cannot deal.

So soon as the idea was promulgated at Calgary early in April it secured the support of every business man and every Board of Trade from the Great Lakes to the Rockies. Coming to the East early in May they found a ready spirit of practical co-operation in the great leaders of industry, finance and transportation. The names of a few of those who gave pledges of substantial subscriptions shows that no movement in this country has ever met with such unanimous support except the great patriotic efforts in the war. It is because this is a patriotic movement that we find among the earliest subscribers the names of such men as Brigadier General Meighen, Lord Shaughnessy, Sir Vincent Meredith, Sir Herbert Holt, James Carruthers, Sir Edmund Osler, Charles R. Hosmer, Sir John Eaton, Sir Charles Gordon, Huntley R. Drummond, Col. Grant Morden, Sir Joseph Flavelle, R. B. Angus, Sir Augustus Nanton, Patrick Burns and James H. Ashdown.

NEW YORK UNDERWRITERS AGENCY

Mr. Harold A. Joselin, for many years connected with the New York Underwriters Agency, as special agent for the Western Provinces, has been appointed Superintendent for Canada, with head quarters in Toronto to succeed Mr. T. D. Richardson, whose admission to membership in the firm of A. & J. H. Stoddart, New York, necessitated his removal to that city. Mr. Joselin is a most popular insurance man, with a most successful record, during his connection with the firm, who now recognize his services by this well earned promotion to a most important position.