

The Law Faculty of McGill University;
its past, present and future.

1. The object of this memorandum is to consider the possibilities of development of the Faculty of Law, and to formulate a policy; incidentally I shall speak of its past history and present standing.

To reduce to writing a dream or aspiration with regard to the future of an institution is no easy matter; but I shall attempt it. The value of such speculations depends upon the solid foundation of fact upon which they rest.

2. The facts which furnish such foundation for my argument are these:-

a) Montreal is and will continue to be the principal city of Canada.

b) Canada is and will more and more become the pivotal point of the Empire, particularly in its relations with the United States of America.

c) Montreal, the meeting point of the two world-wide systems of law, the Common Law of England and the Civil Law of Rome and Continental Europe, offers unique opportunities for the comparative study of those two systems.

3. The conclusion I draw from these facts is that Montreal, more than any place in the world, is fitted to be the scene of a great school of law in which the science of law will be studied in its comparative and international aspects. Such a school of law would be a place of world-resort and world-wide influence and renown.

4. The path of advance for a university school of law is not obscure or uncertain. The lines of development have been ascertained by the experience of the law schools of the United States of America, extending, in some cases, over more than a century.