

McGILL UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE, 1930-31

This Committee appointed by the Principal included the following members:- Dr. F.M.G. Johnson, Chairman of the Department of Chemistry and Dean of Science; Dr. Cyrus Macmillan, Chairman of the Department of English; Dr. W.D. Woodhead, Chairman of the Department of Classics; Professor F. Clarke, Chairman of the Department of Education; Professor W.T. Waugh, Chairman of the Department of History; Dr. David Keys of the Department of Physics. Professor Carleton W. Stanley of the Department of Classics attended as the Principal's personal representative, and the Dean of the Faculty acted as Chairman of the Committee.

The Committee held its first meeting on January 12th, 1931, but was not able, on account of unforeseen circumstances, to meet again during the months of January and February. During the months of March and April meetings have been held and the Committee now wishes to submit the results of its deliberations.

Statistics are of little value in times of uncertainty and least of all in educational problems. Numbers really mean nothing in University education. As a rule the members of a University engaged in teaching or research prefer small or moderate numbers. Overcrowded classrooms, laboratories and libraries are usually unprofitable both to the University and to the community. Figures, too, may often be grossly misleading. No valid conclusions, for example, can be drawn from the number of students and the number of instructors in the several departments, that any one subject is of any greater value than any other subject. Educational values can never be measured by numbers. For the administration of a University, however, which has to provide ways and means and facilities, correct