

McGILL'S NEW PRINCIPAL

Startling, at first sight, in its very audacity and boldness, is the action of the Governors of McGill University in the appointment of the new Principal. The selection for such a post is one who at that time was not the holder of a degree of any kind, and whose reputation,—distinguished as it is—was won entirely in military service, must have struck many as a good deal of an experiment. That it is not generally so regarded, however is evident from the manner in which the appointment has been received by thoughtful men and representative organs of public opinion upon both sides of the Atlantic. Canadian originality has succeeded in teaching the world that personal qualities of tact, judgment, presence of mind and a capacity for leadership may take the place of what had hitherto been considered an absolutely necessary course of professional training. Of this fact, almost everyone of the Canadian generals who attained distinction in the Great War,—including the new Principal of McGill himself,—is a good illustration. It was his possession of personal qualities such as above mentioned, and not any professional military training, that made of General Currie a great soldier, and the secret of his selection as the new head of one of our leading universities is a belief on the part of the Governors of McGill that the same qualities will suffice to ensure his success in his new charge. It is natural that the appointment should have created the surprise in England announced by cable, for our brothers in the Old Land are not, or at least were not before the war, quite as accustomed as we are to what the Times refers to, in this connection, as the "boldness and optimism" which "are qualities we expect from our virile Dominions," and which our contemporary rightly says, "are as indigenous to their soil as originality. The breadth of conception of which Canada has herself recently given us in the notable example by the selection of her great military commander Currie to direct the fortunes of McGill University." Not all the British educationalists of renown view Principal Currie's appointment in the light of an experiment however, for he was singled out and his appointment enthusiastically urged by his immediate predecessor in nomination to the office, Sir Auckland Geddes, the suggestion having been emphatically approved by the Master of Balliol and Professor W. G. S. Adams, Fellow of All Souls, Oxford, who rank with the most eminent educationalists in the British Isles. The Telegraph joins the many friends and admirers of Sir Arthur Currie in congratulating him upon his new appointment and in hoping, with Dean Adams that the new Principal may prove as successful a leader of Canadian youth in peace as he has proved himself to be in the time of war.