

Only last June, too, we listened to a most interesting appeal at the University Conference in Winnipeg, calling for overseas recruits for the Imperial Colonial services in other parts of the Empire. Everybody knows that our public services everywhere at home are in constant pressing need of trained qualified men. Finally, although more remotely, no university can afford to overlook the claims of Platform, Parliament and Press, and last but not least, the Bar and the Bench. **Why should not McGill venture out into this larger field?** open for men of superior education. Let me turn now to legal education.

University legal education in Canada is in a deplorable position and McGill is no exception. Hitherto the McGill Law School has belonged to the type which I have elsewhere called the Collateral type, that is to say, it has been devoted to the task of coaching local law clerks in classes, or perhaps I should say in class formation, for the purpose of admission to the local bar. In other words, it has been engaged in doing for the profession what the profession is bound by contract to do for its own clerks. This is the type of law school found virtually everywhere in Canada. Frankly I have never thought that a university should recognize this work by granting a degree. Three years of lectures done after hours falls far short of the requirements for any other degree. Even an arts degree calls for four years of full time study and an arts degree is always an amateur thing compared with a degree intended for serious professional uses. Furthermore, as long as the number of lectures, the hours of lecturing, the subjects of study, the character and extent of the examinations and the membership of the Board of Examiners are determined by the profession, there is really no room left for university independence, personal influence and progress. This aspect of the present system seems to me to be all but fatal.

Recent ventures in McGill I fear are not going to succeed. I say this not because our ideas are unsound, but because we are not, I think, going about them in the right way. We are to some extent at least attempting to build up two law schools, a civil law school and a common law school, when one good school is really beyond our resources. Furthermore, there exists here, as in all the Canadian universities, the fundamental cleavage between the claims of education and the claims of professional practice, one faction emphasizing the necessity of a preliminary arts degree and through comprehensive courses in the supposedly more educative subjects, such as Constitutional History, Constitutional Law, International Law, Roman Law, Obligations, General Jurisprudence, etc., and the other emphasizing the claims of office attendance, close contact with the local profession and heavier courses in the supposedly more practical subjects, such as Company Organization, The Administration of Estates, Local Statute Law, Office and Court Procedure, etc. The result is an almost complete break down at the center, ending in the frequently pitiful confusion of the student. Some decision on this issue, it seems to me, must be reached if we are to proceed any further with university legal education, here or elsewhere in Canada.