

# *Genesis of a Department of Sociology*

A Memorandum on a Department of Sociology and Social Service.

By Stephen Leacock.

Up to the present time the general subject of sociology has not appeared in the curriculum of McGill University. There were various reasons for this. The Faculty of Arts was limited in numbers and the subjects already established seemed to meet the demands of the student body. The addition of further subjects entailed a new expense in a Faculty already poor and a further competition among departments already numerous.

The situation is now altered. The number of students in the Faculty is vastly increased. The finances of the University rest upon a more assured footing. And the pressing nature of every form of social problem has been intensified by the results of the war. There is great need for the application of intensive study and trained intelligence in the urgent social questions of the moment, and an open field for the kind of effort that only a university can undertake.

Within recent years a certain beginning has been made by the establishment of a Department of Social Service. But its scope has been restricted. It has formed no part of the essential curriculum of any Faculty. It has offered no course leading to a college degree, or representing a training which in itself might be viewed as an opening to a profession. But its activities have at least revealed the fact that a field exists for university work and university training in connection with social service.

I should, therefore, like to suggest that the authorities of the University consider the organization of work on a wider and