

Conclusion

During the ten years under review the Faculty of Arts has made notable progress. The years immediately following the war were years of difficulty in all universities. Following the discipline and anxiety of war-time, they were years of reaction against convention and of somewhat chaotic revolt against the old order. In all countries there was an unprecedented rush to the universities. Large numbers of men returned from overseas to continue their war-interrupted college courses. To meet the new demands, the majority of educational institutions, if not all, found themselves unprepared. Teaching staffs had been depleted during the war; class rooms were over-crowded; organization had been seriously impaired.

The increased burden in McGill, because of the changed and unexpected conditions, fell most heavily on the Faculty of Arts. During the three years previous to the period under review there was no Principal. One year before the beginning of this period the Dean of the Faculty, - who had filled this post for 17 years, - retired. He was followed for some time by a succession of acting Deans with no continuity of office. Many changes in the personnel of the teaching staff followed quickly, because of retirement or resignation or death. An almost new academic body in personnel, in increased numbers, in importance, came suddenly into being, and the (Arts Faculty became the largest Faculty in the University. Its relationship to other Faculties was wholly changed and it became the gateway through which students passed into the professional schools.)

Statistics already quoted indicate the unprecedented increase in students and in staff during these ten years. New Departments were established. The Department of Modern Languages was divided into two Departments, -- that of Germanic Languages, and that of Romance Languages. The Department of Psychology was separated as an independent Department from the Department of Philosophy; the Department of Sociology was created, and the Department of Education established