

EDITORIAL

THE STUDENTS AND THE POLICE.

It had been our intention to discuss the Theatre Night disturbance this week, but perhaps the following editorial taken from the Montreal Daily Star will have more weight, coming as it does from outside sources:

"The evidence given by the McGill students last night before the Police Committee furnishes definite form to the charges which had previously been made, and certainly places the police force in a serious position. As the enquiry has not yet closed, we have no intention of pre-judging the findings; but it is only fair to the police to point out that a series of denials from 'plain clothes' men that they saw nothing happen will hardly offset the positive evidence of men who not only saw but felt very definite things happen. When students are battered up so that they need medical assistance, when they are knocked senseless and even given permanent injuries, it is idle to pretend that nothing went on.

"One question which is being asked today is why the police, who seem to have been present in large numbers, made no arrests at all, save one. If they could have arrested no one else, they could have carried off such students as were knocked down and lay insensible. Bet-

ter still, they ought to have arrested the men who made these assaults, no matter who they were. It is a terrific arraignment of the police that, on a night of special vigilance, so many serious assaults could be committed on the public streets by some one; and yet not a single arrest be made among the assailants. If the police theory is to be that outside thugs committed these assaults, they would be in a much better position if they had a few of the ruffians in the cells to produce as examples.

"Then it would seem as if this 'plain clothes' business was overworked as against students. 'Plain clothes' men are the last resort of police who should be sent to keep order when a lot of reckless young fellows are out for a lark. Naturally they do not pay the same attention to a 'plain clothes' man, about whose identity they may be in doubt, as to an officer in uniform. In such cases, what is wanted is not so much detection as prevention; and this can best be supplied by a uniformed patrol.

"Of course, no one will offer excuses for any injury to private property, worked by the students. They have no right to insult citizens or damage their premises; and they seem to have displayed singularly bad judgment in selecting the section of the city where they played

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