

You will therefore realize that the problem has been most carefully studied, that the decisions were not hurriedly arrived at; further, that it has been studied in relation not to one feature only, but to many with which it is related, and also that it is along the line of movement which has put McGill in the forefront of Canadian Universities in physical education, seeking to avoid the baffling situation which has developed in connection with the athletics of hundreds of the Universities and Colleges of the United States and which is causing very grave apprehension as to the outcome. In order that you may be well seized with the information which led to the decision I am glad to lay this information before you, and will be glad to further elaborate any details or answer any questions which may arise in your consideration.

CONCLUSION

The chief considerations from the standpoint of the students seem to be two-fold.

1. To provide adequate facilities for team and track dressing rooms at the Stadium.
2. To co-relate the athletic equipment and dormitories as the centre of student life at Macdonald Park.

Both of these are excellent but the first can be better provided for by erecting suitable dressing rooms in closer proximity to the track and Stadium.

The centre of student life to-day is indisputably at the campus; it will remain there for many years and possibly for all time.

A great many students look on the gymnasium largely from the standpoint of developing crack athletes and training championship teams.

The Board of Governors look on the gymnasium as a most important and integral part of the University to be erected mainly for the benefit of all but especially for the needy students and for the development of a Department of Physical Education of real scientific value co-related to all the other Faculties. It recognizes the importance of the fact that our young men of to-day are deplorably physically inefficient. The 360,000 medical examinations conducted in Canada during the war brought to light the fact that 180,000 or 50% of them were unfit for service; 60% of the conditions which were found were remediable if proper measures had been taken for their correction earlier in life. The Board further recognizes the fact that the welfare of the mass is the chief consideration and that if the gymnasium is not offering the fullest opportunities for the development of neglected organic and muscular growth, for character building influences, for instruction in health and hygiene and for the maintenance and preservation of the efficiency of the human machine; if it is not doing these things for the general student body, it is not fulfilling the functions expected of it by the University.

The Board of Governors and I feel very keenly interested in the broader aspects of the problem and we are firmly convinced that the Department of Physical Education, supervising as it does all the physical activities in the University, can perform its duties much more satisfactorily and efficiently if the Gymnasium building is located on the lower Campus.

I wish to thank you for the interest you have shown; for the opportunity of making this statement and trust that you will recognize the importance of the factors which led the Board to make its decision.

May 8, 1922