

Dear Sir Arthur,

I don't know whether you wished a full commentary on the DOCUMENT. My own opinion is that it is not worth my powder and shot, and for this opinion, I think, the following reasons are sufficient:-

1.) Near the outset the authors point out that "bricks and mortar" and premises are not important. But almost half of the report has to do with real estate; nor are the remarks on that subject very original or sagacious.

2.) The great bulk of the remaining half has to do with Science. This one reads eagerly, hoping to come upon some illuminating remarks on the inadequacy of our training in mathematics, or something else of fundamental importance. But the word "mathematics" nowhere occurs (though there is one glancing allusion to "mathematical physics") and after a gabble of censorious remarks and more "real estate" this part tails off into nurses and obscure generalities about Macdonald College.

Really, the persons named as investigators should have been able to say something of value about Science. But I cannot discover it.

3.) About their summary treatment of the Arts Faculty, it would not be fair to be too severe about pp.30-1. (They say they will later incorporate the Dean's report). Yet even here they lapse badly in referring to Psychology as an "outstanding department". But pp.2-3 are luminous on their incapacity. They pick out English, French, Economics, as the more important departments! Not a word of Mathematics, nor of History, nor of Classics, any one of which is more important than any of the three they name.

4.) And, worst of all, they are utterly blind to the fact that McGill cannot for a moment be discussed without reference to Quebec Schools. But as you - and as any sensible man on your staff, in Engineering and Medicine as well as in Arts - realize clearly, nothing very much can be done to improve McGill until our schools are reformed. (Also, of course, the Quebec schools cannot be reformed until McGill buckles to and makes it a cardinal endeavour to send some good teachers into the schools - especially in Mathematics and Classics.)