

THE NEW PRINCIPAL OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY



General Sir Arthur Currie, who was installed in office this afternoon.

SIR ARTHUR CURRIE INSTALLED AS HEAD OF MCGILL TODAY

Dean Adams, Acting Principal, Made the Announcement Which Was Received With Resounding Cheers

At the annual convocation of McGill University held in the Royal Victoria College this afternoon, Dr. Frank D. Adams, acting principal made the announcement on behalf of the Governors that General Sir Arthur William Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., had been appointed Principal of McGill.

The building was with the faculty, graduating class and friends of the university welcomed the man who had done so much for Canada.

Dr. Adams in a short address bade a few words of farewell to the graduates who had just been capped. He wished them all success and prosperity in their future life and hoped that the education obtained at McGill, they would devote not only to their vocation but to public service in the Dominion which more than ever needs educated and disinterested service at the present time.

NEW ERA AT MCGILL.

"This is the beginning of a new period in the history of McGill," said the speaker. "The past history of the university has comprised three chapters. First, that period covering the beginning of the university, about which the public has comparatively little information; second, that period under Sir Wm. Dawson, when the college moved to its present location and occupied the Arts Building. At the same time it commenced to erect new buildings.

The third chapter took in the period under Sir Wm. Peterson during which the university made very great advances on educational lines and went forward with new successes in the general development of Canada.

A GLORIOUS FUTURE.

This present year is a transitional period marking the close of the Great War and the return of our soldiers to the University and civilian life. It ushers in the fourth chapter in McGill's history, which is marked by the appointment of a new principal under whom the University will undoubtedly develop new plans and will pass on to new and greater successes than any it has ever achieved in times past.

Dean Adams then made the official announcement of the appointment of Sir Arthur William Currie to the position of principal of the University.

"Sir Arthur Currie has been chosen," said he, "as one of the greatest outstanding Canadians at the present time, who has led our young men to victory in the Great War and who will now be their outstanding leader in times of peace, teaching them to employ their talents not only in pursuit of their vocations but in the public service of the nation."

THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

The official statement issued by the Governors is as follows:

The Board of Governors, at a meeting held on the 10th instant, appointed General Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., D.S.O., Principal and Vice-Chancellor of McGill University.

In offering Sir Arthur Currie the Principalship of McGill, the Governors were influenced by the conviction that the University needs at the present time, above all other things, a Principal filled with exceptional powers of

organization and administration, and endowed with a capacity for inspiration and leadership.

The sustained brilliancy of Sir Arthur Currie's record in the Great War will always throw an added lustre upon the most glorious annals of our country. His achievements in the general in command of the

Canadian Army Corps won him a reputation unsurpassed, if not unrivalled, by that of any general in the British forces. They were accomplished not alone by his skill as a soldier, but also by the patient, constructive, and far-seeing qualities of a statesman with which he welded the Canadian units into an organization which we are proud to believe was the best and most efficient army corps at the Front. His war despatches were

notable for their clearness and descriptive excellence, while his messages to the Canadian Army were characterized by a loftiness of tone and a noble simplicity of utterance which attracted the admiration of all English-speaking peoples.

The qualities which made him an incomparable organizer and leader at the front fit him pre-eminently for the headship of a great Canadian university.

The appointment to the principalship of one who, beyond six years experience as a school teacher, is without academic affiliations may come as a surprise to some of the friends of McGill. But the governors were supported by the sanction of high educational authorities in inviting Sir Arthur to accept the position. He was singled out, and his appointment enthusiastically urged, by Sir Auckland Geddes, and the suggestion was emphatically approved by the Master of Balliol and Prof. W. G. S. Adams, Fellow of All Souls, Oxford, who rank with the most eminent educationalists in the British Isles. These two high academic personages united with Sir Auckland in the belief that McGill would be singularly fortunate if it succeeded in securing Sir Arthur Currie's services, and that there was no one either in Canada or in Great Britain whose name they could put alongside his for consideration.

The following letter from Sir Auckland Geddes to W. M. Birks, one of the governors, explains the above reference.

British Embassy, Washington, May 9, 1920.

My dear Mr. Birks: I am more glad than I can say to hear that the Board of Governors have decided to invite General Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., to become Principal of McGill University. I do not believe that a better choice could possibly have been made.

Sir Arthur, is, I know, a man of great organizing capacity and of strong personality, and the position which he must ever hold in the minds of all who went from Canada to serve in the Great War makes him in my opinion without question the best man who could have been found for the important post which I hope he will accept.

Up till now I have regretted that fate did not permit me to return to

MEMORIAL CHURCH NEAR VIMY RIDGE

Patronage of General Sir Arthur Currie Was Sought for Project

A NATIONAL MEMORIAL

The Inspector-General, While Sympathetic, Expressed Opinion Church Should Be Undenominational

A project for the erection of a Canadian Protestant Memorial church to be located in the city of Lens, near Vimy Ridge, formed the subject of a deputation which waited yesterday morning upon General Sir Arthur Currie. The members of the deputation included Principal Donald Fraser, Rev. Dr. Bieler, Rev. T. W. Davidson, Rev. George Adam and Rev. F. M. McCutcheon, and the introduction was made by Rev. Principal Fraser.

From the statement which was made by Rev. Dr. Bieler, it appeared that the proposal to erect a memorial church arose out of a movement that originated in the United States to help in the reconstruction of the many French Protestant churches which were destroyed in the war zone. Dr. Bieler had made a tour in the United States in this connection over a year ago and had first-hand information as to the situation. As Canada's contribution the suggestion had been made that the erection of a church in the area where the Canadian Corps saw so much strenuous fighting would be a fitting thing. It so happened that the church which was destroyed at Lens was a Presbyterian church, and on this account Dr. Bieler had made an appeal to the Montreal Presbytery and to the General Assembly to take an interest in the scheme.

The object in calling upon General Sir Arthur Currie was to secure his approval and patronage. His views, however, were that if this was to be a national memorial, for which subscriptions are to be invited from all over the Dominion, it should be an undenominational church. He asked a number of questions as to what church would have the administration, who would appoint the pastor, and the estimate as to cost. As to the administration, it was in the minds of the promoters that the church would be under the direction of the Federal Protestant Churches of France, of which Dr. Monod of Paris is the president. It was admitted, however, that if it was to be a union church, the question would have to be considered in that light, and also the whole question of placing it under Canadian jurisdiction with a bilingual pastor should be considered.

The members of the delegation received the utmost sympathy from General Currie, who made notes of their explanations and promised to go into the scheme and advise them later with his data.

McGill, but now that I hear there is a chance of your getting Sir Arthur Currie as Principal I feel that my not going there will prove to have been for the good of the University. Yours very truly, A. C. GEDDES.

W. M. Birks, Esq., Montreal.