
THE PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

The statement issued by the Principal of the University, to be found in this edition of the "Daily," will be a source of satisfaction to the student body. Not only does it serve to throw light upon the outlays made by the Board of Governors since the financial campaign of two years ago, an explanation of which has long been awaited about the campus, and the publication of which has been frequently urged in this column, but its result will also be apparent, we feel sure, in operating to dissipate any suggestion that may have been entertained by the undergraduates that their interests were being ignored by the authorities and replacing this misapprehension by one of confidence in the respect given to a persistent stand by the students and in the efficacy of the means at their command to make such apparent to those at the head of the university administration. There can be no doubt but that the words contained in the communication received from the Principal will be closely and widely scrutinized and while some of the sentiments inserted therein may not be greeted with immediate endorsement, the policy of the Principal in placing the facts before the students will be deeply appreciated.

No one would question the wisdom of the maintenance of a teaching staff that will bear comparison with any upon the continent, and in this endeavour we believe that McGill has been successful. Where we cannot express full acquiescence to the views contained in the Principal's letter is in the opinion put forth that the erection of a Gymnasium-Dormitory would have defeated this end. It seems that, if funds had been devoted to this latter purpose in preference to application to the raising of other buildings—notably the addition to the Library and the new Dental Wing—with a possible limited expenditure in the direction of additions to the staff, a very small amount of money, in comparison to recent outputs by the authorities, would have been required for the inclusion of the Gymnasium-Dormitory building in the programme. Also, it must be remembered that a constant inducement must be extended to matriculants if the influx of students is not to diminish; that such influx is in danger of falling off unless it can be shown that McGill does not lack what other colleges afford, and that students are as essential to a university as professors.

The one point that the Principal's letter does not settle is the combination of circumstances which brought about a complete alteration in the convictions of the Board of Governors during the summer months. At the conclusion of the Spring Session the students left their lecture rooms content with the promises extended to them that dormitories and gymnasium would be ready for the fall. On their return to college they found an entire change of attitude on the part of those in authority. Just what prevented anticipation of the difficulties that have since arisen, is not disclosed. However, the need for a gymnasium and for dormitories remains vital; each day definite action is postponed renders the deficiency increasingly apparent.