

The report which has been made by the Special Committee presents some useful matter for discussion and offers some suggestions of undoubted value.

Its contents appear to require supplementing in one important aspect - it deals primarily with the value of the University as an institution where research is to be carried on for the general benefit of the country. It does not, in my opinion, lay nearly sufficient stress on the object which was in the mind of the University's Founder and of most of its benefactors, namely the training and equipment for life of a large number of young Canadians. Valuable as research is we must never lose sight of this primary function.

I have one very general comment to make. The report does not offer any internal evidence that the Committee has been apprised of a great many changes which have been made in the University in the last five years. I refer particularly to the entire re-habilitation of the laboratories and the re-organization of the courses in the Faculty of Applied Science, but other examples will appear as we proceed to consider the report in detail. It is possible that the Committee were aware of some of these changes but if so it would, I think, have been proper for them to mention improvements of such importance.

I come now to the report itself. The report begins,-

I.

" It is assumed in this preliminary report that:-

- (1) The Board of Governors are resolved to build up a really great University in keeping with its national character."

In connection with this assumption it seems desirable to enquire whether it is really the intention of the Board of Governors to stress a national character in McGill. In considering the function of Provincial Universities, many are