

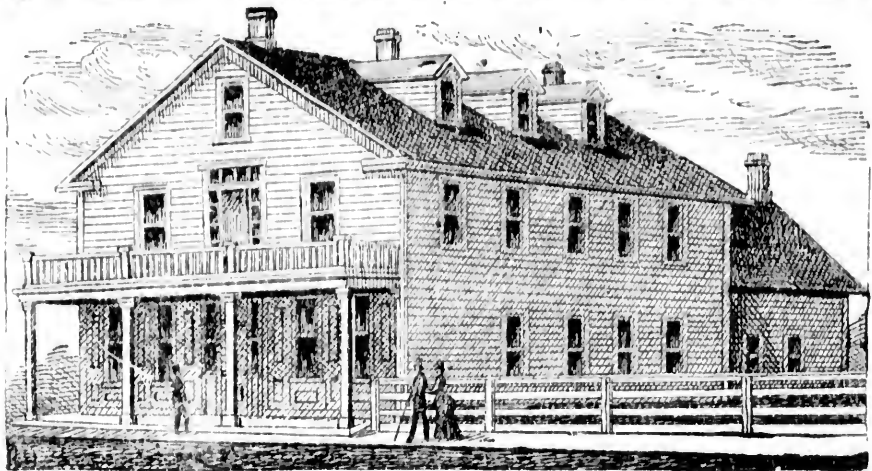
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again in the hearing of the writer, stated that he looked forward to the time when teaching in a number of difficult subjects would be given by the university. The visit of Mr. Biggs and the writer had only to do with the establishment of convocation in the university, which suggestion was adopted. This is made the more certain by the fact Mr. Biggs never had any connection with Manitoba College. Whatever the origin of the discrepancy in memory there is no denying the fact that a Free Press report at the time states that Mr. Royal said in the house "that the university might eventually become a teaching body." That Archbishop Tache thought the words "at present" were not in the bill seems beyond all question, but the case with others being different it is not strange that they should have reached the opinion that teaching in the university is now a necessity.

UNIVERSITY ORGANIZATION.

The first regular meeting of the University Council was held at the Court House, Winnipeg, on Oct. 4th, 1877. It was a rare sight to



MANITOBA COLLEGE (1875-81),

see representatives of opinions so diverse meeting together and deliberating for the common good. Steps were immediately taken to prepare a curriculum. Difficulties arose on account of the difference of British university customs from those in Canada, on account of the divergence between the French Canadian system of Lower Canada, and that of Ontario, and on account of the importance given by specialists to their own departments. A "juste milieu" was however at last obtained. This was largely accomplished by a committee of half a dozen of members including the chancellor, the bishop of Rupert's Land, the late Father Forget, of St. Boniface and representatives of Manitoba College. The committee usually met at St. John's college, and many an evening was spent in laying down the lines of the university of the prairies. Those early gatherings were among the most

enjoyable of all the pleasant meetings that have taken place in preparing the now wide curriculum of our provincial university.

THE FIRST UNIVERSITY DAYS.

The first examination held by the university took place on the 27th of May, 1878. At this examination seven candidates appeared, and they were all from Manitoba College. Their names and standing were as follows: Previous examination, W. R. Gunn; preliminary examination, J. B. Polworth, C. M. Stewart, L. McPhillips, O. H. Clark, D. R. Sinclair and A. E. McPhillips. The thoroughly cosmopolitan character of Manitoba College may be seen in the fact, that of these seven, three were Presbyterians, two Methodists and two Roman Catholics. It has been so with Manitoba College ever since the first. Religious opinion is no barrier to the highest distinction being rewarded in its classes. The early lead in the university by the college has been maintained ever since. The first graduate of the university was Mr. W. R. Gunn, of this college. Our students usually make up

fifty or sixty per cent of those passing university examinations. It is pleasing to be able to state that while there has been keen competition between the colleges there has always been the best of feeling. The seal of the university adopted in its early days is a symbol of its composite and unique character. In one quarter is the Provincial Arms; in another beside it representing St. Boniface College is an open Bible with the appropriate words upon it: "Pueris his Scientiam dedit Deus," Dan. I. 17. Below the Provincial arms representing St. John's College is St. John with his eagle and pen, while on the right lower quarter is the Manitoba College device, a vine with the motto, "Floreat." Around the border are the words "Universitas Manitobanensis," while surmounting all is the crown in token of the protection and interest of the state. In regard to