

In our opinion, the main risk in lengthening the session is a falling-off in the number of students. Could that be guarded against, and at the same time the essence of all that a university means be preserved without detriment to anyone concerned, there is nothing to be said against a longer session. But the question comprehends a great deal. With it are necessarily and inextricably bound up matters of the highest possible importance when the attractiveness and resultant influence of the University are considered. The problem is how the falling-off in the number of students can be counteracted, for unless something is done to keep our classes at their present level, any step like that contemplated must be regarded as nothing short of disastrous. It is obvious that a number of inducements to students must be created, and further, that unless there is every probability that new attractions would act powerfully in drawing students to the University, no person who has the welfare of the University at heart can for a moment regard the lengthening of the session as feasible. There is scarcely any need to enumerate the attractions to which we refer, as they will of themselves occur to most of our readers. One is the foundation of halls of residence, another is the erection of a gymnasium, and yet another the increase of facilities for enabling poor and deserving students to take a university course. The last desideratum would be attainable by the establishment of a special fund. In view also of the isolated position of the University, and of the obstacles that provincial feeling in the Dominion opposes to the free play of educational influences, it is of the utmost moment that valuable exhibitions and scholarships be founded on a large scale, and such attractions supplemented by the creation of travelling fellowships. By generous action taken along the lines just indicated, McGill University would rapidly increase its strength in every Faculty, and find itself before long in an impregnable position.