

1. We are a private institution and have been such for over a hundred years; that is, our institution has been maintained largely by private beneficence although we acknowledge with gratitude such help as we have received from the Government of the Province of Quebec and from the City of Montreal. It may of interest to you to know that in the ten years preceding June 30th, 1931, Macdonald College, which comprises the School of Agriculture, the School of Household Science and the School for Teachers, has received from the Provincial Government \$401,765.00 and in gifts, scholarships, bursaries and prizes from other sources, nearly \$22,000. In that time McGill University received from the City of Montreal \$100,000, and from the Provincial Government \$343,800, while the Dominion Government contributes \$1,900 a year to the upkeep of our Observatory.

I think I can safely say that with few exceptions the really great universities of the world have always been private and independent institutions, and that institutions free from government influence and control have a more truly scientific spirit, one that is less utilitarian in its aims and purposes. Universities wholly, or largely, supported by governments, in order to satisfy the voter who is taxed to support them, have not the same freedom in selecting the student body and in scientific work are prone to press for material results. This in the long run is deadening to scientific effort.

Pasteur, I suppose, was one of the greatest scientists. The practical results of Pasteur's work must run into untold millions, yet Pasteur would never accept the position in the gift of the French Government. The beer industry was threatened because the beer would not keep: Pasteur solved the problem and returned to his laboratory. The silk industry was on the verge of extinction; Pasteur again found the difficulty and again returned to his laboratory. It has ever been so. The true scientist does his best work when left alone and provided with proper facilities. He requires no pressure or extraneous stimulus.

Because we are a private institution we are independent. In all sorts of ways we can pursue our course, unswayed by those influences that count for nothing in the development of true university work, yet hamper the government-supported institution at every turn.

But there is always the difficulty of providing sufficient funds: there will always be that difficulty until the time comes when the University has achieved a unique position in all its Departments and when its preëminence is fully acknowledged. Then, funds will come. We are now making progress towards that enviable position, and any investment now made to achieve that position will easily pay for itself. Until that time comes, we must concentrate on the things more worth while, digging deeper rather than spreading ourselves superficially. There will always be all sorts of pressure brought to bear upon us to begin this and to begin that work of practical training;