

The Department of Geological Sciences

Present Equipment and Future Requirements

General Geology, Paleontology, Stratigraphy and Field Work

(Report by Professor T. H. Clark)

GENERAL COURSE - GEOLOGY I

There is no lack of material for use in this course that cannot be filled by the ordinary process of collection and occasional small purchases. Three most desirable changes suggest themselves to me, after having had charge of this course for two years,-

First: the single hour lab. work per week is absolutely inadequate, not only in total time expended on this phase of the course but also in the length of each individual meeting. Our term is short - seven months at the most. We do not actually get more than twenty-six weeks of work. This means twenty-six hours of lab. work. I do not know of any institution where Geology is taught in any way that resembles the thoroughness with which we approach the subject that would be satisfied with twenty-six hours. Two hours a week for thirty weeks is usual, three hours a week is demanded by some institutions, and four hours a week throughout the year is not unusual. McGill cannot pursue a policy of laissez faire in this respect. If we have never had more than one hour a week in the past, then the past has been at a disadvantage. We must make the lab. period one of two hours, increasing the effectiveness of the course for all, and laying a sure foundation for those using it as a stepping stone for advanced or graduate work. The paramount objection will be voiced by the Applied Science Departments concerned. Any additional hour for their students must apparently be conjured from the sky. But the need is there, and must be met. Ways and means form another's problem.

For such a change the laboratory space is adequate, and no new specimens need be provided. We must, however, see that lab. assistants be provided in a way that will be permanently satisfactory. The Leroy Fellow, if no other work be assigned to him, is abundantly able to handle all of the work of the lab., which should not require more than ten hours work a week. In this connection, I consider it grossly unfair to expect a man to devote ten hours to teaching, no matter what the stipend be, and at the same time carry on his work in competition with, and along side of, students not thus hampered.