

keep in mind that, although we have had our Centenary, McGill is not really an old university, as it was not until Sir William Dawson was appointed Principal in 1855 that the University really began to take an important place in the life of the country and to turn out graduates in any considerable number. Before that time, those interested in educational matters in the Province of Quebec had had rather an uphill row to hoe.

Previous to 1801, when the Royal Institution for the Advancement of Learning was established by an Act of the Legislature, there were no free schools in the Province, and notwithstanding the passing of the Act, it was not until 1818 that School Trustees were appointed. We are told that the first schools were one-room buildings of cedar logs; that in 1819 the total expenditure for education was £883.10.0., and that the average salary of a teacher was £18.0.0. per annum.

I mention the Royal Institution for the Advancement of Learning because it supervised the establishment of McGill and directed the College in its infancy, for under the Act of 1801 all property and money given for educational purposes in the Province of Lower Canada were placed under the Institution's control.

It was at this time, when educational facilities in the Province were so limited, that McGill came into existence. James McGill's will was made in 1811. He bequeathed to the Royal Institution for the Advancement of Learning, in trust, the sum of £10,000 and his Burnside Estate of 46 acres, on the condition that "McGill College" be established within 10 years of his death, which occurred in 1813.

Montreal, at that time, was a city of from 12,000 to 15,000 inhabitants, the majority being French. In the year of James McGill's death, only 9 vessels entered Montreal from the sea, and these had a total carrying capacity of only 1,589 tons.

Under such circumstances, it can readily be seen that if McGill College had opened its doors immediately after Mr. McGill's death there would not have been a great many students. But the work did not commence at once, for there was much litigation with the heirs, and matters were not finally settled until 1837. Previous to that date, however, a certain amount of educational work had been carried on.

It is interesting to note that, during this long period, McGill was extremely poor. There was great difficulty in meeting the necessary expenses of the lawsuit. Some of the property was leased on a profit-sharing basis to a farmer, and in this connection considerable disturbance was caused by the fact that a fence had to be built to keep the cattle from straying, and there was no money for the purpose. However, as a result of an appeal to the Board of the Royal Institution, £75.0.0. was finally granted to pay for the fence.

These facts are mentioned to show that, up to 1837, there was not a great deal of progress made by McGill, and, as previously mentioned, the same condition prevailed up to the time of Sir William Dawson's appointment to the Principalship in 1855. It is apparent, therefore, that for many years after the foundation of McGill, the Governors were continually struggling to get enough money to carry on their work in any manner at all. Nor should we consider, so far as actual turning out of graduates is concerned, that McGill is as old a university as is popularly imagined, as up to 1855 the total number was only 180.

However, although McGill has always been poor financially, she has been fortunate in other ways. She was fortunate in the tolerant outlook of her first