

To the Senate of the University of Toronto :—

As President of the Board of Trustees of the Park Hospital I have been requested by the Board to address you in regard to the present position of the Hospital.

As you are doubtless aware, the Wycliffe College property was purchased for \$60,000, the donation of \$40,000 from Hon. John Macdonald having been applied on account of purchase money, the unpaid portion amounting to \$20,000 being secured by mortgage on the property, payable at the end of five years and bearing interest at the rate of six per centum per annum payable half-yearly in the meantime. This mortgage is held by the Canada Life Assurance Company, who also hold as collateral security the bond of eight of the trustees for payment of the interest till the principal is due. The half-year's interest due last November was not paid and the Company allowed payment thereof to be deferred till May. Thus a year's interest became due on or about the first instant, and the Company require payment this month otherwise threaten proceedings. Some of the sureties for this interest are quite willing to pay their rateable proportion, others, it is said, are not. The adverse criticism to which the scheme has been subject, and the belief that such criticism will be continued if any attempt be made to advance the scheme, has paralyzed the movement. Some of the many influential and wealthy citizens who identified themselves with it have withdrawn from all connection, whilst nearly all of the remainder desire to do so. Several persons who intended to give substantial aid have been discouraged in such intentions and some at least have entirely altered the same. Thus the scheme once full of promise has been almost wrecked, the only thing required to complete such result being that the Company sell the property under their mortgage.

The Company may adopt either of two courses, namely, may collect interest on their mortgage from the sureties until maturity of the mortgage and then proceed against the property for principal money, or may now proceed against the property itself by bringing the same to a sale or foreclosure. When this stage is reached there will disappear, I fear, the last chance for the University having an hospital under its control. The establishment of such an institution must depend, I think, upon private charity. If Mr. Macdonald's generous act becomes abortive, no one is likely to again bring such an opportunity within the reach of the University. ~~The Park Hospital~~ The Park Hospital scheme if carried out will in time, I believe, afford to the University Medical Faculty hospital facilities at least equal to those supplied to McGill by the Victoria Hospital, in which already some professional appointments have been made. Without the hospital our University might find the prestige of its Medical Faculty eclipsed by the attractions of the more fortunate McGill. Thereafter our Medical Faculty will be maintained at great disadvantage, in fact, it may be a question whether it will be able in the long run to survive so unequal a contest.

These views, strongly as I entertain them myself, I present with much diffidence, not knowing whether they are shared in by the medical gentlemen connected with the University. Whether it is possible for the Senate to avert the threatened destruction of the scheme I cannot say. though I think that even yet it might be saved were the Senate to manifest some sympathy with it. It appears to me reasonable to assume that no one is likely to contribute of his means towards the project intended largely for the University's benefit, but which does not receive the Senate's endorsement. Personally I have no desire to continue the thankless task of struggling against opposition to place the scheme upon a working basis, but feeling beyond all doubt that it is capable of great advantage to the University, I am unwilling to withdraw my support from it so long as there is any chance of its being proceeded with. At the same time I desire the Senate to understand that though willing to continue in such connection, I would infinitely prefer being relieved from any such further duty, and shall cheerfully make way for another to take my place.

Toronto, 25th May, 1893.

I remain

Your obedient servant,

W. MULOCK.