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McGILL UNIVERSITY



CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION MEETING

CENTENARY OF THE FACULTY OF LAW

SPECIAL CONVOCATION

THURSDAY, 2nd SEPTEMBER, 1948

at 3.30 p.m.

LAW LIBRARY
MCGILL UNIVERSITY

This year the Law Faculty of McGill celebrates its one hundredth anniversary, thus placing it among the oldest Law Schools in Canada. Today's Convocation not only honours the distinguished visitors who are receiving their degrees but also celebrates the Law Faculty centenary.

In the spring of 1848 a group of young students who were reading for the Bar petitioned the University to grant them more formal instruction and a degree in Law. Until this time law teaching was confined to occasional lectures by practising lawyers and to such instruction as was gained through clerkship in a law office. In consequence of this request the Board of Governors of McGill "engrafted" the Faculty of Law on July 15, 1848. Prominent in the opening of the School was the Hon. Mr. Justice Badgley, around whom the courses in the Faculty were centered. Later, in 1856, J. J. C. Abbott, afterwards Prime Minister of Canada, was made Dean. In the middle 1880's the munificence of Sir William Macdonald made possible the appointment of N. W. Trenholm as the first full-time teacher and Dean. The present staff consists of four full-time professors, eight practising members of the Bar and one Chartered Accountant; while the enrollment in 1947-48 totalled 204.

Although lacking a permanent home, the Faculty of Law shares with the School of Commerce the Arthur Purvis Memorial Hall. Its library, the most extensive bilingual University Law Library in Canada, contains over 25,000 volumes.

Numbered among its graduates are such names as Sir Wilfrid Laurier, P. B. Mignault, Eugene Lafleur, Aimé Geoffrion, Chief Justice Rinfret and a host of distinguished past and present leaders of the Bar and in public life throughout Canada.

Today's special Convocation is the first event in a programme devoted to the centenary. During the autumn term a series of lectures by eminent lawyers and scholars has been arranged. These lectures are designed to appeal not only to the profession and the student body but also to a wider public.

The close relationship that has always existed and must exist between law teaching and law practice renders it fitting that the Centennial of the Law Faculty should be celebrated jointly by the University and the members of the legal profession in Canada.

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

1. Academic Procession.

2. Convocation Prayer:

The Reverend Mr. Clifford Knowles, University Chaplain.

3. The Chancellor.

4. Conferring the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Civil Law.

John T. Hackett, B.A., B.C.L., K.C., M.P., President of the Canadian Bar Association.

Presented by Professor C. S. LeMesurier, Dean of the Faculty of Law.

The Honourable Arthur T Vanderbilt, A.M., D.C.L., LL.D., Chief Justice of the State of New Jersey.

Presented by Dr. F. Cyril James, Principal and Vice-Chancellor.

5. Convocation Address:

Dr. Vanderbilt.

Benediction

The audience will please remain standing in their places until the platform party has left.

