

1935
THIRTY-NINTH CONVOCATION, JUNE 3rd, 1935.

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RECTOR'S REPORT

Loyola cordially welcomes its faithful alumni and loyal friends to its 39th Annual Convocation. We value highly these rare opportunities of more formal intercourse with those whose support and encouragement mean so much to us.

Convocation this year coincides with the birthday of His Majesty the King and the Silver Jubilee of his reign, and I cannot let the occasion pass without proclaiming our loyalty to his royal person, the centre and unifying influence in our British Commonwealth of Nations, as well as expressing our deep gratification and keen appreciation of the honour conferred on our College when by command of His Majesty its Rector was recently selected to receive the Jubilee Medal. Needless to say the Rector is under no illusions with regard to this decoration and fully realizes that it is the institution of which he happens for the time being to be the head, rather than his humble person, that the king is thus pleased to honour.

A rapid survey of the past year provides nothing of a sensational nature, and, perhaps, it is just as well. The health of the Staff and Student Body, I am glad to say, has been uniformly good.

I am gratified to report that the work of the students during the past year has been in general very satisfactory. I suppose no true friend of the young will ever be completely satisfied with their achievements, nor should they themselves be; yet there is much to comfort us in the interest, industry and earnest effort of which we are the daily witnesses, and while we

appeal ever more insistently for a yet greater co-operation on the part of parents, we gladly attest our appreciation of the understanding assistance many of them do afford us in our work for their sons.

To our Dean of Studies, Father Leo Melligan, who is with us again, and to his devoted co-workers of the Staff, lay and clerical, it is a pleasure for me to pay here the tribute of our admiration and gratitude they so richly deserve. That their painstaking efforts have not been in vain the satisfactory results of the examinations just concluded bear ample testimony.

This year we have had the largest number of students ever enrolled in our College Course. I take this fact as evidence that our Catholic parents are increasingly alive to the solid advantages of a college education as a preparation for a really successful career. But there is another side to it: for it will inevitably mean increasing our laboratory facilities. We have had to do this once already in the last five years and, I assure you, it entails a considerable outlay of money. But we are at the end of our financial tether, or rather, we have long since got beyond it. In fact, for the last three years our income has not at all equalled our outlay by several thousands of dollars. I mention this rather disconcerting fact in the hope that some true friend or friends of Catholic higher education may come to our assistance. I venture to say that there are few higher or better uses to which those whom God has blessed with abundant means could apply them.

Among the extra-curricular activities the first place in a Jesuit college naturally belongs to the Sodality of Our Lady. This year it was unusually flourishing and active in spiritual stimulation. The weekly attendance was uniformly good and the

sodalists, as is to be expected, were especially prominent in class-work, sports and all student activities.

While it is true that our inter-collegiate debaters did not win the Dominion Championship this year, they none the less won the Regional Championship against Ottawa University and Bishop's for the eleventh time in fifteen years. In the Montreal Debating League our second line debaters got as far as the semi-finals, while both speakers of the winning team were Loyola graduates.

In the realm of sport - for it, too, has its place in every well-rounded system of education - our College Hockey Team won the Intercollegiate Provincial Championship, only to lose out to the Royal Military College for the Dominion Championship by a single goal in a two-games series. A very successful field-day was held last Saturday, during which one record of many years standing was broken by Fred McCourt. It was, however, rather disappointing to see such a small number of spectators. Very few of us are willing to put forth our best efforts if there is no one to see us, and this is especially true of the young.

The annual review of our C.O.T.C. Contingent was a most gratifying spectacle and elicited high praise from the distinguished inspecting officer, Brig.General Gibsone. To major O'Brien, Captain Long and Serg.Major Cavan I wish to express here our deep appreciation of all they have done for our young men.

Our Old Boys' Association staged "The Haunted House" in this Auditorium to a large and appreciative audience.

In the course of the past year four of our Old Boys, Anthony Deslauriers, Francis Boyle, Gerald Lahey and Alex Rolland, all of the Society of Jesus, were ordained to the holy priesthood. To these young levites Loyola offers her maternal congratulations and hearty wishes "ad multos annos".

We shall have the pleasure this evening of hearing another Loyola Old Boy and one of her most distinguished sons, Mr. Leon Mercier-Gouin, give the address to the graduates.

Our former graduates at the universities continue to give a good account of themselves, several of them securing honours. At McGill Mr Henry Hemens won the MacDonald Travelling Scholarship in the final year of Law. This same scholarship, by the way, was won last year by another Loyola graduate, Mr. Timothy Slattery, who is now taking post-graduate work in Paris.

To our benefactors of the past year we offer our heart-felt thanks and in particular to the Xavier Apostolate for the princely gift of \$1850 for the education of young men for the priesthood; to Mr Adjutor Amyot of Quebec, for a perpetual scholarship; and to, the Altar Society of St. Ignatius Parish for the beautiful Sacred Heart window in our Chapel. May God bless these kind friends and make their tribe increase.

Our sincere thanks are also due to Major Murtagh, our boxing instructor, to Mr Edward Kearns, who coached our track team, and to Jack Shaughnessy, who coached our High School foot-ball squad.

And now a final word to these young men whose College career is being crowned this ~~year~~ evening. Our cordial wishes and fervent prayers are their's as they leave Loyola. May they be ever faithful to the high ideals with which we have sought to inspire them, and stand forth before the world as Catholic men of whom their Alma Mater may ever be proud.