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# Georgian

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Official Organ of  
The Students' Council, Faculty of Arts, Science and Commerce  
Sir George Williams College

VOL. XII, No. 11

Montreal, March 12, 1948

Price 5 Cents

# TODAY IS "C" DAY!

## NEW CHARTER ACQUIRED BY COLLEGE

### Bill 175 Passes Both Houses Without Dissenting Vote

## *The Principal's Message*

The new charter, "the second charter," long-awaited, is now a reality.

Bill 175, signed yesterday by the Lieutenant Governor, creates of the College a body corporate and politic "in order that the educational work which it is doing may be carried on more effectively and advantageously." It makes more specific the powers and functions by which the College has operated for 75 years under the charter of the Young Men's Christian Association of Montreal.

By this bill the new Corporation is entitled to (a) "Carry on and conduct a college or university within the Province of Quebec to impart education and higher education in all branches of classical, technical, general, scientific, commercial and artistic learning"; and (b) "to grant and issue degrees, diplomas and certificates evidencing the standards attained by those taking advantage of the College's educational facilities."

This is a welcome, if overdue, confirmation of the development of the College in the past 20 years, during which it has been offering college-grade instruction in Arts, Science and Commerce. It should add considerably to the College's prestige and make easier the path to certain professions and professional schools. Since the first degrees of the College were awarded in 1936, 498 "Bachelors" have been granted. Of these about one-third have gone on to higher studies, in quest of graduate and professional degrees, of which 51 have already been obtained. This is probably as good a record as that made by the graduates of any college or university in the same period.

Students are therefore reminded of two things: First, that exceedingly substantial if not quite complete recognition has been achieved by the Collège's graduates in the past 12 years, in spite of the lack of this "second charter"; and second, that while this new charter will probably ease the path of the graduate considerably, it will not change the basic fact of admission to graduate study and most

professional schools—namely, that individual merit and the academic record of the applicant are all-important and will eventually determine the fate of the applicant.

While the powers given the College in the new Charter are exceedingly broad, there is no expectation that it will do other than continue to provide general undergraduate education to the Bachelor's degree, with provision for specialization or "majoring" in certain selected fields. Believing so thoroughly as it does in the integration of its faculties and departments, it will maintain only such distinction between them as may be desirable for its functioning as "a university within the Province of Quebec", the whole bound together in its co-ordinated faculty or faculties of Arts, Science and Commerce, as in the past. The four sub-collegiate Schools are part of the responsibility of the new corporation, and will continue to be operated as separate units.

The College, of course, will continue to function as part of the Y.M.C.A. organization in Greater Montreal, its bylaws providing for the maintenance of this historic link which through 75 years of steady development has enabled the College to achieve its present stature. The members of the Metropolitan Board of Directors of the Y.M.C.A. will also be the members of the Corporation of the College. They will continue to constitute the property-holding or trustee board standing in the same relationship as in the past to the Board of Governors, which conducts and controls the management of the College. Fifteen members of the Board were the petitioners for the new Bill, and to them as well as to Mr. J. W. Beaton, Metropolitan General Secretary of the "Y", and Mr. R. W. Roberts, Chairman of the Board of Governors, the College owes a great debt of gratitude for its new charter.

*J. E. Howard*

# The Georgian

Published weekly as the Official Organ of  
**THE STUDENTS' COUNCIL**  
**FACULTY OF ARTS, SCIENCE AND COMMERCE**  
**SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS COLLEGE**

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The opinions expressed in this editorial and in other columns of this paper are not necessarily those of the Students' Council of Sir George Williams College.

## EDITORIAL

# AT LAST!

The Lieutenant-Governor yesterday sanctioned Bill 175. In so doing it crowned with success the long and diligent efforts of our College to achieve the type of recognition which a Special Provincial Charter reflects.

It was inevitable that this recognition should come, for Sir George Williams College today boasts a record of educational achievement which cannot be denied. It was the first in Canada to see the need for, and provide, college courses leading to degrees for evening students. From its modest beginnings it has grown, until today it serves a student-body of 721 day, and 1,713 evening students. The success of its efforts is probably best indicated by the fact that one-third of its graduates have completed, or are now engaged, in post-graduate studies. It will be recalled that a member of its first graduating class entered the study of medicine, and is now a practicing physician along with five other Georgian Alumni!

For the student-body, and the alumni, the granting of the charter represents the fulfillment of a long cherished hope. Even more important, however, is the indication that it will most likely remove the basis on which some Georgian graduates have been restricted from freely entering into the two professions of law and teaching. The professional associations, and authorities in these two fields, it is anticipated, will now accept the degrees of Sir George Williams College on a basis of equality with those of other recognized colleges, as has been the case in most graduate faculties and professional schools for many years.

The process of obtaining the Charter was a long and complicated one. The interest of the student-body in this matter was best indicated by the discussions of the problems involved sponsored by such College organizations as the Veteran's Society. In April, 1947, the Charter Committee of the Veterans' Society was organized under the chairmanship of Art Jordan. Dr. Norris at this time expressed his appreciation of the interest and willingness to co-operate, shown by this group. At the beginning of this semester the S.U.S., together with the Veterans' Society, set up a joint Charter Committee, which was at all times in close contact with Dr. Norris in this matter.

It is the privilege of the Georgian Editorial Board, on behalf of the student-body, to congratulate the Faculty, the Board of Governors of our College, and the Metropolitan Board of Directors of the Montreal Y.M.C.A., on the successful conclusion to their negotiations for the Charter. It is our sincerest hope that this will prove to be but another step on a long road of progress and achievement for Sir George Williams College.

# The First Big Step

(THIS IS A REPRINT FROM THE MONTREAL HERALD IN LATE DECEMBER)

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that Gerald W. Birks; John H. Davey, Manufacturer; Honourable John B. Foster, Barrister and King's Counsel; John B. Frosst, Manufacturer; Eric A. Leslie, Railway Vice-President; John G. McConnell, Publisher; Guy Tombs, Transportation Expert; Harold M. Long, Agent; Leonard W. Townsend, Banker; John M. Prichard, President; Howard I. Ross, Chartered Accountant; Osmond B. Thornton, General Manager; Madison M. Walker, Banker; Norman B. Walton, Railway Vice-President; and James H. Webb, Executive; all of the City of Montreal, and all of whom are members of the Metropolitan Board of Directors of the Young Men's Christian Association of Montreal, will apply to the Legislature of the Province of Quebec at its next session for the passing of a special law constituting them and others who may subsequently become members thereof a body corporate and politic under the name of "SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS COLLEGE" with head-office at the City of Montreal for the purpose of carrying on and conducting a college or university within the Province of Quebec to impart education and higher education in all its branches of classical, technical, commercial and artistic learning, with powers to establish faculties and classes and to prescribe the nature and extent of the courses to be carried on and the instruction to be given therein and to grant and issue degrees, diplomas and certificates evidencing the standards obtained by those taking advantage of the college's facilities; to purchase and otherwise acquire the property and other rights of any other corporation, society or person carrying on similar activities to those which the corporation is carrying on and to amalgamate or enter into any agreement for union of interests or otherwise with any such corporation, society or person; to acquire by purchase or otherwise and to sell or alienate property, moveable and immovable; to borrow money on credit of the corporation; to hypothecate or mortgage the immovable property thereof; to appoint a Board of Governors for the management of the corporation; and to do all other things that are incidental or conducive to the objects and exercises of the powers of the corporation; and for other purposes.

### MONTREAL,

December 26th, 1947.

Montgomery, McMichael, Common, Howard, Forsyth and Ker, Attorneys for Petitioners.

# The March of Time

By  
 JOSEPH CO LUCE FORTUNE

(Note: The characters portrayed in this documentary film exist, but have no relation whatever with each other).

Scene: Street-view of Y.M.C.A. Building, Drummond Street. Camera slowly moves in.

Voice: In this modest 10-storey building, flanked on one side by the historic Drummond Cafe, and on the other by an ultra-modern apartment house, is found one of the most progressive colleges in Canada. Founded 23 years ago, Sir George Williams College provides more and more students with a college education that is as good as can be found anywhere else in the country. But only this week did this education receive official recognition in the form of a Provincial Charter.

The story of the attempts to obtain this all-important charter begins twelve years ago in London, England. . . .

(Camera, which has been viewing offices and classrooms, pauses for a moment at the antics of some freshmen on the crowded campus, then fades and opens, on Hyde Park, London. Camera slowly travels over roof-tops, stopping at No. 10 Downing Street).

Into camera view appears Dr. Norris with coat collar turned up, hat brim pulled over his eyebrows. Knocks on door.

Door opens just a fraction, face appear in crack.

Dr. Norris (whispers): Henry sent me. (Hastily produces Athletic Card as identification).

(Butler steps out, looks up and down the street). Butler: Very good, sir. Follow me.

As Dr. Norris walks solemnly up the hallway, music of Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance" plays softly.

Voice (cuts in on music): But Dr. Norris, principal of Sir George William's College, was politely told that with the signing of the Treaty of Westminster, Britain had relinquished all official cognizance of Canadian Universities, especially those in Quebec.

(Camera shows Dr. Norris solemnly returning down the hallway, behind the butler. Music plays "Pomp and Circumstance" backwards).

Voice: But the officials did not lose courage. They meant to obtain the charter in one way or another. In 1938, they sent Dean Henry Hall on a secret mission. . . .

(Camera fades and opens on White House. Fala is seen opening the main gates). Enter Dean Hall, slowly walking towards White House steps.

Music of "Civilization" -- the American National Anthem -- is heard. Camera follows Dean Hall to the door. He (Dean Hall, not the camera), knocks.

Dean Hall (as door opens, whispers): Kenneth sent me. (He goes in).

Camera cuts and silent-film caption is seen:

But at the White House, too, S.G.W.C.'s bid for recognition received a rebuff. For it was explained that the U.S. was not a member of the League of Nations, and therefore had no jurisdiction in Quebec.

(Music plays "Vive La Canadienne" the National Anthem of "Les Jeunes Laurentiens").

Voice (ominously): Then -- came -- WAR!

(Music plays themes of "Tannhauser Overture", "Siegfried Overture" and "Ride of The Valkyries".)

Voice: Then -- came -- PEACE!

(Music plays themes of "Tannhauser Overture", "Siegfried Overture" and "Ride of The Valkyries".)

Voice: Filled to capacity with bright, enthusiastic students. . . (Camera moves in on alert Biology 101 class seen chasing a frog which has hopped out of the instructor's hand) . . . Sir George William's College once more renewed its efforts to obtain the charter.

The Board of Governors entertained government officials. . . .

(Camera shows a happy party in basement cafeteria).

Voice: . . . they bribed government officials.

(Camera shows dimly-lit scene in which the Registrar very capgily passes a pile of cloak-room checks to an unidentified government official).

(Camera then swings to the office of Pacifique Plante, who states that such things will not be tolerated, but the sound track, at this point, is sabotaged).

Voice: . . . they bribed influential newspapermen.

(Camera shows the Registrar capgily passing 1 lb. of margarine to Al Palmer).

Voice (triumphantly): . . . and today, after unstinting toil, the officials of Sir George William's College have obtained the document, which places them on an equal footing with such great, nationally known educational institutions as Bishop's, Loyola, St. Vincent de Paul (post-graduate), and West Hill High School.

(Hall-Johnson Choir is heard singnig "What's The Matter With Old McGill" -- by mistake).

## Two Men Whose Endeavours Were Tireless



MR. J. W. BEATON, O.B.E.  
Metropolitan General Secretary of the Montreal Y.M.C.A.



The students of our college are indebted to these two gentlemen for their unselfish and unrelenting determination in the quest of our new Charter. In the past few years they, and their associates, have spent many long hours of labour in the hopes of success so that we, the students of Sir George Williams College, will find the long climb easier to surmount.



MR. R. W. ROBERTS, O.B.E.  
Chairman of the Board of Governors of Sir George Williams College

## Looking Backward

### Beginnings

Colleges with a future generally have a past. Sir George's is a proud one, reaching back three-quarters of a century to 1873, when the present institution enjoyed an embryo existence as an assortment of educational and vocational classes known as the Y.M.C.A. Educational Department. The Y.M.C.A. building at that time occupied the site on Dominion Square where the Sun Life now stands, and it was here the Educational Department functioned and developed through the last decades of the nineteenth century and into the early years of this, steadily enlarging its enrollment and expanding its activities until by 1920 it had moved into their present location and had become known as the Montreal Y.M.C.A. Schools.

### Bathrobes in the Halls

The growth and success of the Y.M.C.A. Schools during the Twenties demonstrated early the need for an organization which would enable High School graduates to proceed into college without having to abandon the jobs they worked at during the day. No such opportunity existed anywhere in the city until in 1929, three years after the name Sir George Williams College had been adopted.

The College in 1929 expanded its programme to include First Year Arts, Science, Commerce and Engineering. Sir George's premises grew inevitably with its programme, but practically the entire organization in 1929 was still confined to part of the third storey. A curious feature of academic life in those days was the frequent appearance in the halls of Y.M.C.A. transients, garbed in bathrobes and making their way between the washroom and their dormitory located on the same floor as the college.

However, all this was changed in 1930, when the whole plant was renovated with funds raised in the big "Y" Campaign in '28, and the College was assigned its present second and third floor space, and the entire Stanley Street Wing of the building was built.

The Library in 1929 presents another interesting contrast. In that year of the Crash, it occupied no space north or south of the two large pillars which now constitute its main support and centre. The general outline of the present library dates from the renovations of 1937, with the most recent extension having occurred in 1947.

### The Years of Jeopardy

By 1931 the clamour among successful Freshmen for further fields to conquer led to the opening of Second Year classes. Sir George Williams College was now offering Junior College training leading to the Diploma of Associate. Students of the College then as now, had as mentors Dr. Norris, Dean Hall, Mr. Elliot, to whom were shortly added Prof. Thompson and Prof. Clark, whose devoted and long-time association mark them as "the grand old men of Sir George's".

With the depression in the early Thirties came the College's years of economic jeopardy. That Alma Mater survived these years is a tribute to the character of both the governing boards and the faculty whose sustained efforts in its behalf justified by 1934 the expansion of the Junior Faculty into the four-year Faculty of Arts, Science and Commerce, to the Bachelor's Degree.

### Guinea Pigs with Degrees

In 1936 Sir George Williams College was able to award its first degrees. These were two in num-

ber, and at the graduating ceremony the two students, Mr. Francis Davison and Mr. Leo Germain (both B.Sc.), were simultaneously handed their diplomas, thus avoiding the embarrassment of one taking precedence over the other. In the year following, the first large class of graduates received their diplomas and designated themselves "The Guinea Pig Group". One of their number was Professor Clarke, displaying even in those youthful days a rich and mature growth over the upper lip. (Viz.: Graduates Photographs in College office).

The College by 1936 had attained to its majority. It was now functioning, and had been since 1934, as a full-fledged college offering degree courses by night and day to anyone, regardless of race or religion, willing and able to learn. The years since then have seen this democratic institution of learning grow in size and reputation. In 1939 came the World War, and in response to its demands the formation in the College of a Georgian Training Corps. Students from the College served round the world, many of them returning with the peace to resume their interrupted studies as "Student Veterans", some of them first as "probationers" at the Claremont Division, and later as members of the undergraduate body.

### Where do we go from Here?

That, in brief, is the story thus far. The recent granting of the new or "second" Charter begins a new chapter in the life of the College. The dramatic personae of that chapter are ourselves. How the story will read a decade from now will depend largely on the care and insight we bring to our respective roles. If we keep in mind the Past, as a measure of what might be accomplished, the Future will be bright indeed.

# STUDENT ASSEMBLY

Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m.

## BUDGE HALL

An opportunity for the students to meet and greet the gentlemen responsible for the obtaining of the new charter.

# THE MEANING OF THE "CHARTER"

A charter is a written grant of rights issued by a sovereign or by a legislature, especially in connection with the creation of cities, companies, and such corporations. The custom of granting charters to universities, (as well as to boroughs), dates back to their first appearance in the Middle Ages. For in such places as Paris, Oxford and Cambridge, the professors, and students of the "gown" soon discovered that they needed government protection against the unacademic bar-barians of the "town". Without a charter, neither a city nor a university, nor a business company, has any legal existence.

Until this year, "Sir George Williams College" has been simply the name of one of the activities of the Young Men's Christian Association of Montreal. It has not existed as a distinct corporation. Officially, all its business had to be done by the Y.M.C.A. of Montreal, which is an incorporated body possessing a government charter of its own.

Why was a change desirable? There was the matter of business convenience, of course, but from the point of view of our students, the most important consideration was the matter of our degrees. The Y.M.C.A. charter, unlike the university charters, does not mention specifically the privilege of granting degrees.

There is no legal necessity to have the permission of the government before issuing degrees. In the final analysis, the value of any degree depends on the reputation established by the graduates

who hold that degree. During the dozen years since 1936, when the first S.G.W.C. degrees were granted, their reputation has been gradually built up wherever our graduates have gone. In a good many places, a S.G.W.C. degree is already accepted as equal in value to an equivalent degree from any Canadian university.

In the important field of public education, however, this was not the case. Teachers in the government schools of the province of Quebec must obtain a government High School Diploma, and before they can do this, they must graduate from a recognized university. The Quebec Government (through its Central Board of Examiners) took the position that since Sir George Williams College had not received from the government a special charter specifically mentioning the right to give degrees, therefore, whatever others might do, the government itself could not recognize this College as a university. Consequently our graduates could not obtain a High School Diploma without first obtaining another degree from some recognized university.

Certain other institutions, lacking any better criterion upon which to base their judgment, also took the position that they could not recognize our degrees without reservations, until they were specifically mentioned in a special government charter. This meant that in such cases, a S.G.W.C. graduate, instead of having his bachelor's degree accepted without question at face value, might find that he was granted credit

only on the basis of an evaluation of each individual course he had taken, or, in extreme cases, that he was simply told that he must obtain a degree from some other institution. It was therefore clear that, just as soon as sufficient time had passed for the reputation of our degrees to have become reasonably established, Sir George Williams College owed it to her students to request a special charter from the provincial government. In January, 1948, it was decided that that time had now come.

The official name of our charter is An Act to incorporate Sir George Williams College, 1948, (12 Geo. VI). Using the traditional phraseology, it states that "His Majesty, with the advice and consent of the legislative Council and of the Legislative Assembly of Quebec, enacts as follows . . . ." It then states that Gerald W. Birks and certain other persons whom it mentions by name, all members of the Metropolitan Board of Directors of the Young Men's Christian Association of Montreal, are constituted "a body corporate and politic" under the name of "Sir George Williams College" for the following purposes:

(a) "To carry on and conduct a college or university within the Province of Quebec. . . ."

(b) To establish facilities, etc., and "to grant and issue degrees, diplomas and certificates evidencing the standards attained by those taking advantage of the college's educational facilities".

This charter, which received first reading in the Legislative Assembly on January 28, went successfully through the various stages, and was read the third time on February 11. After going through the same stages in the Legislative Council, it comes into force on the day of its sanction by the Lieutenant Governor in the name of the sovereign.

This means that the Province of Quebec through the most formal document possible, an Act of Legislature, has incorporated Sir George Williams College, and has specifically granted to it the right, as a "college or university", to grant degrees. This recognition of the value of our courses in Arts, Science, and Commerce will no doubt clear the way for those graduates who wish to enter the profession of Education by obtaining a Quebec High School Diploma. It will also undoubtedly greatly facilitate the complete acceptance of our Bachelor's degree on the same basis as degrees representing the equivalent general courses at McGill, Laval, Bishop's, and Montreal not only by the Canadian university fraternity, but also by other interested bodies and by the Canadian public in general.

At the same time, it emphasized that the charter will make no difference whatsoever in the character of our courses or in the real significance of our degrees. Our fundamental philosophy remains, as always, that our chief concern shall be "the development of persons, through the medium of formal education and its correlated activities."

## CHARTER CELEBRATION

### ATHLETIC PROGRAM

Monday, March 15 at 2 p. m.

2 Action packed hours, featuring many Sports,  
Competitive and non-competitive

### CHARTER DANCE

At The Canadian Legion Hall

Music By ROB ADAMS

Mon. March 15 at 9 p. m.

\$1.00 per Couple