

**FILE 709**

**BUILDING COMMITTEE : GENERAL**

**1921 - 1930**

**DOCKET STARTS:**

Campaign  
1927

Return to  
Principal's files  
FM

MEMORANDUM RE THE PHYSICAL NEEDS  
OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY.

by  
The Principal himself.

It is ten years since the Board of Governors of McGill University made its last appeal to the public for funds, and in that appeal they said:

" \$5,000,000 is the minimum amount that McGill must obtain to meet its most urgent necessity. Twice that sum is needed for present requirements, but with less than \$5,000,000 McGill must inevitably fall so far behind and suffer so greatly in its prestige that it may never recover."

That campaign resulted in \$6,400,000 being pledged, of which all but \$200,000 has been collected.

The experience of the last ten years has shewn that the words used in the appeal of ten years ago were amply justified, and there need be little surprise when it is learned that for the last few years there has been an annual deficit of between \$250,000 and \$275,000. Had McGill in 1920 been able to raise the sum of \$10,000,000 which the Governors said was needed for "present requirements", there would have been no deficits now and requirements equally pressing with those of 1920 would have been met.

In setting forth what were McGill's most pressing needs at that time, the Governors listed them in the following order:

Professors' salaries  
Additional professorships  
Endowment of professorships  
Maintenance of buildings and laboratories  
New buildings and extensions.

The New Buildings and Extensions were described as follows:-

- a) Biological Building
- b) Pathological Building
- c) Arts Building
- d) Physics Building
- e) University Library
- f) Building for Mining, Metallurgy and Electrical Engineering
- g) A large frame building at Macdonald College -- Agricultural Engineering and Livestock Arena
- h) A building for the Department of Commerce
- i) A new Museum Building
- j) A building to house the McCord Collection
- k) A University Gymnasium
- l) Students' Residences
- m) Conservatorium of Music
- n) Convocation Hall

and, closing the appeal for buildings, the Governors said:-

"The needs as outlined above will take not less than \$10,000,000, while to provide for the imperative necessities \$5,000,000 must be immediately secured. The Governors are confident that the response to the appeal of McGill in her day of need will be such as to ensure her future prosperity."

The following statement shows the buildings that were supplied, the cost of erection and equipment, the annual increased maintenance charges, and the capital required to cover those maintenance charges.

McGILL UNIVERSITY

BUILDINGS ERECTED SINCE 1920, SHOWING

INCREASED COST OF MAINTENANCE

	Cost of Buildings and Equipment	Annual Increased Maintenance	Capital re- quired to cover maintenance charge
Biological Building and Greenhouse, open 1922	\$ 585,694.00	\$ 19,900.00	\$ 331,667.00
Pathological Institute open 1924 (a)	494,372.00	26,500.00	441,667.00
Arts Building, open 1926	761,025.00	9,500.00	158,333.00
Macdonald Engineering Building, New Electrical Wing, open 1925 (b)	76,602.00	2,500.00	41,667.00
University Library Extension, open 1923	132,784.00	1,600.00	26,666.00
Dental Clinic (c)	40,000.00	nil	nil
	\$2,090,477.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$1,000,000.00
Macdonald College - Cluster Cottages and 2 Poultry Houses open 1921-25 (d)	30,571.00	say 1,500.00	25,000.00
	\$2,121,048.00	\$ 61,500.00	\$1,025,000.00
Industrial & Cellulose (Built by Pulp & Paper Chemistry Building Association)		6,000.00	100,000.00
New Animal House (Built from subscrip- tions raised by Dr. Martin)		---	---

- (a) Towards the cost of the Pathological Building the Royal Victoria Hospital contributed \$102,018.00
- (b) It was not possible with the funds available to supply the new Mining and Metallurgy Building, but upon the foundation of the old workshops an Electrical Wing to the Engineering Building was erected and equipped, to the cost of which \$55,000 was contributed by the Montreal Light, Heat and Power Cons., the Shawinigan Co., the Bell Telephone Co. and the Northern Electric Company.
- (c) Although not mentioned at the time of the appeal, this building was a very urgent necessity and its cost was born partly by the General Hospital, who provide the maintenance. Amount here shown is cost to McGill.
- (d) These are the only physical improvements made to Macdonald College in the last ten years.

Quoting again from the Campaign literature issued by the Governors in 1920, we find that

" \$195,000 per annum is now required to increase the present salaries of the teaching and administrative staffs. Forced to anticipate the successful issue of this appeal, the Governors have already increased the salaries of the teaching staff by the aggregate sum of \$150,000."

Capitalizing \$195,000 at 5½% interest, we see that a sum of \$3,500,000 is required, so that if we add this sum - required in 1920 to provide the increased salaries - to the capital sum which represents the cost of the buildings and equipment above-mentioned, together with the capital required to cover maintenance charges, we have a sum of, roughly, \$6,750,000, - or, \$550,000 more than the amount raised in the campaign.

The new buildings and equipment required in 1920 are more urgently needed in 1930, and I would outline the building requirements as follows:-

Section A. - Very urgently required

- A.1.) A building for Mining, Metallurgy, Geology and Architecture.
- A.2.) A combined Gymnasium and Students' Union, with accommodation for Departments of Physical Education and Officers' Training Corps.
- A.3.) Extension to the Library

Section B. - Necessary, but less urgently required.

- B.1.) A Dormitory or Dormitories
- B.2.) Administration offices and proper housing for the Law School
- B.3.) Convocation Hall.

Section C. - Necessary

- C.1.) Increased Museum Accommodation
- C.2.) Extension to the Physics Building
- C.3.) Additional space for Dentistry
- C.4.) Additions and Additional Equipment for various Laboratories.

Section D. -

- D.1.) Extension to Royal Victoria College and Girls' Gymnasium
- D.2.) Enlargement of Playing Fields
- D.3.) Enlargement of Stadium.

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A.1.) Building for Mining, Metallurgy, Geology and Architecture

Plans for this building and its equipment have been prepared and approved by the University Committee but not by the Building Committee. The cost of erection, etc. will be in the neighborhood of \$600,000. I do not think any doubt can possibly exist in the minds of anyone as to the very urgent need for the facilities which this building will provide. A thorough training in Mining and Metallurgy and Geology is imperatively necessary if our great mining industry is to be developed and helped as it should be. McGill cannot afford to stand aloof from this development. It is not something which will arrive in the future - it is here now; and we cannot get away from the fact that at the present time this University is not giving the training in these subjects that is required. We have a good staff but it is too small. McGill has had a strong Department of Geology for three-quarters of a century. Sir William Dawson was a great geologist, so was Dr. Frank Adams, and so was Dr. Bancroft, but the latter left us, despondent because he despaired of ever being given the staff and facilities needed to train properly graduates in this work. All our students going on for post-graduate work in Geology must now go to the United States, and that is one of the reasons why we year after year bemoan the loss of some of our best-trained men to the institutions and industries of that country. We should be

in a position to offer the necessary training here. To give one example of our poverty in this respect, I have only to mention that we have neither a geological museum nor the space for one, and cannot show a student what a piece of rock looks like. In fact, one of the outstanding needs of Canada to-day is a well-organized Department of Geology. It is true that there is no such Department in Canada that compares with the best Departments in the United States, and that is why some students leave Canada never to return.

It is to be noted that I have suggested that accommodation in this building be provided for Architecture, now distributed over four floors in the Engineering Building. Taking the Department of Architecture out of the Engineering Building would enable it to be consolidated in more convenient surroundings and also furnish much needed room in the Engineering Building.

It has also been suggested that an additional floor be provided in the new Building to accommodate the Faculty Club. This involves an increased cost of \$80,000.

#### A. 2.) Combined Gymnasium and Students Union, etc.

In almost every Annual Report, I have emphasized the urgent need of a building for a Gymnasium. The students look upon it as the most outstanding need of the University at the present time. All other Canadian universities possess greater facilities in this regard than McGill. It is all the more urgent for McGill because our playing fields are so limited, with little possibility of their being enlarged.

We feel that we are not discharging our full duty to the students in the matter of physical training; and it is only with the greatest inconvenience that they receive such training as is given. We make use of the facilities of the following institutions:-

The Presbyterian College  
The Diocesan College  
The United College  
The Montreal High School  
Strathcona Hall  
McGill Union

Y. M. C. A.  
Knights of Columbus  
Y. W. C. A.  
Forum  
Craig Street Drill Hall  
Royal Victoria College  
3484 University Street



It is not right that an institution like McGill should go begging all over the City in order to find places where its students can train. We have too few playing fields and no gymnasium. To supply more of the former is practically impossible, but the latter can be more easily provided, because we have on hand \$84,500 earmarked for this purpose - and in addition there would be whatever sum would be made available by the sale of the Students' Union on Sherbrooke Street. I think the Gymnasium should give accommodation for the Officers' Training Corps and the Department of Physical Education, and furthermore, provide such facilities as are to be found in the Students' Union. The suggestion has been made, and I think it is a wise suggestion, that the Union property on Sherbrooke Street be sold and the funds devoted to providing its facilities elsewhere. I would recommend that this plan be carried out and that the facilities spoken of be provided in the new Gymnasium to be built on Pine Avenue.

#### A. 3). Library Addition.

Although we extended the Library in 1921, we did not extend it enough. I was given the impression at the time that the increased accommodation would provide all that was necessary to take care of the developments of the next fifteen or twenty years. I am sorry to say that that judgment was so faulty that the increased space was practically all taken up in five years.

I am very proud of our Library. It contains 325,000 books, plus 95,000 in the Gest Chinese Library, and 50,000 pamphlets and 1200 periodicals, which have been chosen and retained with great care. There are unique and valuable special libraries. Furthermore, we have created Departmental Libraries: - the Law Library is in that wing of the Arts Building which accommodates the Law School; the Department of Chemistry has its own Library; so has the Department of Physics; so has Pathology; while the Medical Library is in the Medical Building and there is a Library in the Royal Victoria College. Besides that, many of our little used books are stored in the stables belonging to the Principal's residence, where there is grave danger of deterioration.

We have insufficient stack-room and insufficient reading room. The present reading room is practically filled all day long and far into the evening, but we can by no means accommodate the students who wish to use it. We have been forced to provide accommodation for reading in one of the large lecture rooms in the Arts Building. Now, one rejoices to see the increased use which is being made of the Library, but it forces us to increase the accommodation. I would say that this increased accommodation is an urgent necessity. At the present time the lack of facilities for graduate studies is most conspicuous. Space for this purpose, i.e., rooms for study and research, is an outstanding need. Ten years ago McGill had practically no graduate school. To-day, nearly two hundred post-graduate students are in attendance.

Consideration should be given to the suggestion that increased library space should also accommodate the McCord Museum Collection, which contains much historical material and if used for historical research purposes could be more easily used if in closest proximity to the Library.

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B-1) A Dormitory or Dormitories.

My views are set forth on page 4. of a pamphlet which reports an address I made to the Graduates' Society of Montreal. I have only this to add, that I think a beginning should be made by erecting one Dormitory building to provide accommodation for a hundred students - a building of a character and in a location that would make extension possible. We have at present \$460,000.00 earmarked for dormitories, and, I think, having accepted this amount for this especial purpose, we should keep faith with the donors by making a beginning in providing Dormitory accommodation.

B-2). East Wing of Arts Building.

Some time we must reconstruct what is now the East Wing of the Arts Building. It contains the Administration Offices, i.e., the Bursar's Department, the Registrar's Department, the Principal's office and also houses the Law Faculty, the Department of Extra Mural Relations, the School for Graduate Nurses and the Graduates' Society's offices.

As far as the Law School is concerned, there is sufficient classroom and office accommodation - very rude and plain in character, but one does not complain of this. The Law Library is on the top floor and the building is so weak in structure that we dare not place any more books in position for fear of collapse. This, of course, is a great draw-back, because putting the Law Library next door to the class rooms has been one of the causes of a very great increase in the use of the Library. In fact, the Library is used, easily ten times as much as it was ten years ago.

As far as the Administration Offices are concerned, they are old, but of that one does not complain; there is insufficient accommodation and another badly needed official cannot be brought in because there is no accommodation whatever; furthermore, we need more fireproof accommodation, for it is impossible now to make room in the fireproof vaults for all the papers necessary to be kept there. A further reason for rebuilding this wing is that in it might be provided the additional accommodation badly needed by Arts and Commerce. At the time of the reconstruction of the Arts Building we provided all the space possible on the available area, unless we had changed completely the character of the buildings; and I think we did right in keeping the old front. But further accommodation is necessary. There is not a seat, not an office, to spare in the Arts Building, and, in fact some of the Departments have no office to themselves.

Recently a policy has been adopted which will greatly encourage students to enter the scientific courses and stimulate the training of scientists. At McGill it is now possible for a student to take a course leading to a degree which will embrace Chemistry, Physics, Physiology, Botany, Zoology and Bio-Chemistry. This change involves the appointment of a Dean of Science, not a very difficult appointment to make, but there is no office in the Arts Building which can be placed at his disposal.

As I intimated, the reconstruction and extension of the East Wing of the Arts Building would give greatly needed space.

And now I come to the question of dormitories. Many of you, I know, are keenly interested in this question and McGill has been much criticized because we have not large dormitory accommodation. I remember a very prominent graduate and friend of mine telling me that the governors had no right to spend a single dollar of the funds provided in the last campaign until dormitories were supplied, and a prominent Mont-realer intimated that he would attach a condition to his next subscription that it be used for such a purpose only. We are all keenly interested in dormitories; but, naturally, we have different views. There are throughout the University from 800 to 1,000 students who might live in dormitories. The fraternity system is well established, and many students live in these houses. The Royal Victoria College is being extended; and some students will always live at home. The cost of erecting these dormitories would be great, especially if they are to be comfortable and commodious internally and of a style of architecture consistent with the landscape externally. The question we must ask ourselves is, "In view of the great necessities of the University, would the educational returns be commensurate with the cost, and should other needs remain unsatisfied until dormitories are provided?" We cannot do everything, we can only use our best judgment, in this matter as in everything else. I admit the value of dormitories, especially to universities and colleges in small towns; and I admit also that colleges and universities so situated and so favoured often disclose a greater college spirit than similar institutions without dormitories located in larger cities. But—just what is that spirit? Is it insular or is it national? Is it genuine or is it frothy? I am not prepared to admit that the academic standards in such colleges are higher, or even as high as in some other institutions.

I have seen many dormitories which were cheerless, dismal places. Each room had its two beds, its table, its two chairs, its cupboard, its rude bookcases, its bannerettes. There was no library—a fatal mistake. I have never known a case where there were not complaints about meals. All cheap meals prepared in large quantities usually invite criticism. Who would wish to live long in a cheap hotel? And that is what the usual college dormitory really is. Are the minds and manners of students to be greatly improved by herding them together in the average dormitory? My friend who refused to contribute to anything except dormitories contends that the morals of the students would be improved, at least conserved, by such a life. I doubt that; and the experiences of colleges will confirm the grounds for my doubts. Many dormitories are relics of monasticism, and resemble military barracks.

Friends of the dormitory system nearly always point to Oxford and Cambridge, where college life is the feature. But college life at Oxford or Cambridge is a totally different thing to dormitory life in any University on this continent or to any dormitory life that we could establish at McGill. Let us admit, if you like, that Oxford and Cambridge have something which universities here have not—but we cannot provide that "something" merely by the erection of the type of residence possible here. McGill is not made up of residential colleges, and never can be. American colleges thought residential life would give to them what Oxford and Cambridge had. After thirty years' experience they admit they were wrong. President Lowell of Harvard condemns the ordinary university dormitory and is trying to substitute the Oxford college.

No, gentlemen, the peculiar charm of Oxford is not due to her dormitories but to her storied past; to the memories of her famous men; to her chapels; her colleges, each with its own individuality, where professors, tutors and students live together in high company; to the thoroughly scholarly traditions of the leading colleges; and, not the least, to the work done in the famous public schools of England before ever the students went up to Oxford. You cannot create a university out of bricks and mortar and ivied walls and lawns and playing fields. No merely mechanical re-arrangement of the student body will create a single new idea or a single new sentiment in the spiritual life of the institution.

Nevertheless, it is the firm intention of the Board of Governors to begin, as soon as possible, the provision of dormitories. Just where, is a question. The majority of you will think of Macdonald Park at once. But why not on Pine Avenue, or University Street? The space in Macdonald Park is not unlimited, and if all dormitories are erected there, what becomes of playing fields, the need of which is very urgent? Some have advocated a high dormitory building, but I shudder when I think of such a building—more than ever does the idea of the cheap hotel come to my mind.

I have dwelt rather lengthily on this question of dormitories, because it is one not lightly to be disposed of, and because so many appear to judge our University not by what it has in the way of facilities or by what it has accomplished or is accomplishing now, but by what it has not and by what has been left undone.

### B.3.) Convocation Hall.

All present halls of the University are far too small for Convocation purposes. We have no hall that would accommodate those who are graduating and the professorial staff, to say nothing of affording the necessary accommodation for the general public. For the past eight years the University has used the Capitol Theatre, a home of moving pictures. I do not like this arrangement, but I have not found any other building suitable. I would much rather go to a church - but none are convenient, while their seating arrangements are such that endless confusion would arise in candidates proceeding to the platform for their degrees and returning to their seats. Formerly, Convocation ceremonies began at eleven o'clock in the morning, but this year we are told we must be out of the theatre by twelve o'clock, in order that the moving pictures may go on at that hour. It is most undignified that the University must be hustled about in order that the patrons of the moving picture house may not be deprived of even an hour of that kind of entertainment.

The Convocation Hall might also be made to serve urgent needs of the community. It might satisfy the need for a Community Hall, by providing an auditorium for musical concerts - although in my opinion it would take some time to train Montreal audiences to patronize musical concerts to any great extent, unless they were given free.

Great as is the need for a Convocation Hall, I would not place it first among the needs of the University, though it has an undoubted appeal to the public mind.

I think if and when a Convocation Hall is provided, consideration should be given to providing within its walls space for the Department of Music. Yet this is a suggestion which requires very, very serious thought.

### Conservatorium of Music.

A new Conservatorium of Music is also necessary. The present building at the corner of University and Sherbrooke Streets does not give sufficient accommodation in any respect. There are not sufficient class rooms nor practice rooms, nor office, nor library accommodation. Other needs, though are more pressing and come ahead of the necessity for a new Conservatorium of Music.

C.1.) Increased Museum Accommodation

The pressing need for increased museum accommodation arises from the fact that we have the McCord collection worth in the neighbourhood of half a million dollars. It is now housed in the old Joseph house at the corner of McTavish and Sherbrooke Streets. The building is not fire-proof in any way and we are taking a great risk in keeping such a valuable collection in a non fire-proof building. The building is completely filled and, as we now have the income from the McCord estate to invest in Canadiana, the collection will grow. It would be unwise not to acquire historical documents and articles because each year they become more scarce and more valuable, but where we are to put any further acquisitions is hard to say.

There is another factor which we must consider and that is, if a Convocation Hall is erected on the property now occupied by the Joseph house, another museum building becomes necessary at once. The Redpath Museum is chock-a-block, but as we have no funds we are not adding greatly to that collection. In my remarks concerning the library extension I have referred to the possibility of making provision at the same time for the McCord collection in view of its Canadian character and its value to students engaged in historical research.

C.2.) Extension to the Physics Building

The necessity for increased accommodation in Physics arises from the increased study of the sciences. The theories of yesterday become the facts of to-day and many of these bear directly on man's prosperity, comfort and happiness. More students are taking Physics as a subject and furthermore our school is becoming increasingly popular as a postgraduate centre. To encourage Canadian students to take their postgraduate work in Canada is increasingly important because if they do they are more likely to remain in Canada. We need additional class rooms, additional laboratory space and further space for the work of research students.

C.3.) Additional Space for Dentistry

Additional space for Dentistry is necessary but not pressing, largely because of the few students entering that study. There are more opportunities in that profession than the young men of to-day realize, but the realization will come in time and we shall find ourselves cramped.

C.4.) Additions and Additional Equipment for various Laboratories

As mentioned above, interest in scientific work makes greater demands on the scientific laboratories in none of which have we any space to spare. Taking Mining, Metallurgy and Geology out of the Chemistry Building gives much needed space there for development.

- D.1.) Extension to the Royal Victoria College and Girls' Gymnasium.
- D.2.) Enlargement of Playing Fields
- D.3) Enlargement of Stadium.

I have placed these in a separate group because funds for any extension are in a slightly different category.

D.1.) Royal Victoria College.

The Royal Victoria College has its own endowment and its own surplus. This College has become the centre of women student life at the University, and when considering changes in that property I think we must take a long view of things. I look forward to the time when we must acquire all the property on Sherbrooke Street between Shuter Street and University Street and as far back as the Montreal High School.

We shall proceed immediately with the erection of a Wing which will stand at the corner of Sherbrooke and University and accommodate seventy (70) more students. We are also re-arranging the accommodation in the basement and making changes in the pantry and dining room service. Funds for this are in hand. At one time we thought of providing increased gymnasium accommodation, but these plans involve the sacrifice of the large hall for all time to come. I doubt the wisdom of this. A hall is a necessity. It is true that the one now in the Royal Victoria College has not been greatly used as such since the Moyses Hall was built; but we are now finding more applications for the Moyses Hall than we can accommodate and therefore cannot expect that Hall to satisfy fully our requirements. It is well to have the hall in the Royal Victoria College in reserve. There are many occasions when it can serve the distinctive purposes of the Royal Victoria College, and in the meantime it is being used for the physical training of the women of McGill until a proper gymnasium for them is provided. I think it would be unwise to turn it permanently into such a service, because it can never be a first-class gymnasium. A gymnasium, I think, should find accommodation in a separate building, on account of the noise.



Some time we must have a separate gymnasium for the women, but it need not be erected on a front street and therefore it may be less pretentious in character than the other buildings. Until such time as we have a women's gymnasium we shall be forced to allow them to use the men's gymnasium at certain hours.

I have made mention of the Montreal High School. In fact, I look forward to the time when the Montreal High School property must be ours. The character of the neighborhood is changing so much that I think other places will be found more convenient for a High School. Were this property ours, it would help to satisfy many of our needs. It would provide splendid accommodation for our Schools -- the Nurses' School, the School for Social Service, the Mental Hygiene Institute, the Nursery School, and for a School of all grades run by the University under our Department of Education, and which would be a "model" for all other schools and provide a laboratory for research work in education.

#### D.2.) Enlargement of Playing Fields.

An excellent playing field above the Stadium is just about completed, and there is room for another - if we do not use up that area by building all our dormitories upon it.

#### D.3.) Enlargement of Stadium.

The enlargement of the Stadium should carry with it an increased income to take care of any capital cost. I am not in favour of enlarging the Stadium until that increased income is assured. I think we are justified in assuming that we can finance any addition as we financed the present Stadium.

**DOCKET ENDS:**

McGILL UNIVERSITY  
MONTREAL

*Building Com.*

THE MACDONALD PHYSICS BUILDING

December  
Twenty-third  
1925

Sir Arthur Currie,  
Principal McGill University,  
Montreal.

Dear Sir Arthur,

Dr. Ruttan has been to see me this afternoon and he informed me that he has seen plans in progress by Professor Nobbs for the new Forest Products Laboratory. These plans are draughted on the idea that the building will occupy the site on University Street in the immediate rear of both the Physics and the Chemistry Buildings.

The congested state of both the Chemistry and Physics Buildings indicates that, before a quarter of a century has passed, it will be necessary to extend these buildings straight through to University Street; and it is of the utmost importance that these areas should be conserved for such a purpose, as the fundamental sciences must, in a great University, have precedence over purely technical developments, as these certainly are.

You are well aware that we are conducting our lectures and laboratory work in the Physics Department for several hundred students under conditions which do not obtain in other universities; for example, Toronto University has thrice the accommodation for lectures and thrice the accommodation for laboratory work. Moreover our Graduate School is developing in a very healthy manner.

I do not expect to see the Physics Building extended during my regime (unless some fairy prince should devote a large sum ear-marked for such a purpose!), but I think it quite likely that it will take place in your regime and in that of my successor.

It will be, I think, a blow to the prestige of McGill to sacrifice the area ear-marked for the expansion of the general sciences for a large building in the interests of the pulp and paper companies. Nevertheless, I would not have it thought that I am in any way opposed to the very important work which is in contemplation in connection with these industries.

Other solutions are, I think, possible which would not endanger the main interests of the University.

Yours very sincerely,

*AS Currie*

**DOCKET STARTS:**

E. G. M. Cape,  
President.

33  
F. A. Somerville,  
Vice-President.

P. G. Wilmut,  
Secretary-Treasurer.

E. G. M. Cape and Company  
Engineers & Contractors

Building  
Committee

Cablegrams.  
"Capecon" Montreal.

Codes:  
A. B. C. 5<sup>th</sup> Edition  
Western Union.

New Birks Building,  
Phillips Square,

Montreal, June 30th. 1922

In Reply, Please Refer to

General Sir Arthur Currie, K.C.M.G  
Principal,  
McGill University  
MONTREAL.

Dear General Currie:

May I call your attention to some facts in connection with the contracts that we have carried out for McGill University during the past year: Last May you called for tenders for an extension to the Library, and an addition to the Medical Building. On May 23rd. for the extension to the Library building, we tendered in the ordinary way a lump sum of \$105,620. for the carrying out of that work. On May 30th. for the alterations to the Medical building, we sent in a proposition stating that our estimated cost of this extension was \$424,330, and stating that we would be willing to enter into a contract with McGill University by which anything saved from that figure should be shared between us in the proportion of 75% to the owners and 25% to the contractor; and that any overrun above this upset price should be shared between us in the same proportion.

Gen. Sir Arthur Currie, K.C.M.G

June 30th. 1922

Some days subsequent to the delivery of these tenders in a personal interview with you, I consented to guarantee that the tendered prices on both buildings should not be exceeded; we to bear the whole cost of any possible overrun, and at the same time to give the University the advantage on both contracts of the 75% saving clause which we had mentioned in our proposal for the Medical building.

The addition to the Library was completed sometime ago with a saving to the University of \$15,500. The University's share of the saving on the Medical building will amount to about \$23,000., so that on these two contracts a saving of nearly \$40,000. to the owners has been effected over the cost to them had they given us the contracts at the tendered prices.

In addition to this, we feel sure that the work has been carried out to the entire satisfaction of the owners and architects.

In view of this service which we have rendered, and in view of the large saving which the University has effected by means of substituting a somewhat one-sided arrangement of its sharing in the savings but not in the possible overrun, we feel that the contract for the proposed Pathological building might well be given us on the same

Gen. Sir Arthur Currie, K.C.M.G

June 30th.1922

basis; the upset price to be agreed upon between your  
architects and ourselves.

Yours very truly,

E.G.M.CAPE & COMPANY

EGMC/M



**DOCKET ENDS:**



**DOCKET STARTS:**

Minutes of a Meeting of the General Building Committee held on  
the 17th January, 1921.

Present:-

Sir Arthur Currie, in the Chair,  
J. W. Ross, Esq.,  
W. M. Birks, Esq.,  
A. J. Brown, Esq., K. C.,  
E. W. Beatty, Esq.,  
Lieut.-Col. Herbert Molson,  
C. E. Neill, Esq.,

A. P. S. Glassco,  
Secretary.

1. The Secretary submitted the following figures :-

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	<u>1919-20.</u>	<u>Estimate 1920-21.</u>
Expenditure	\$1,141,500.	\$1,416,400.
Income	<u>1,137,200.</u>	<u>1,275,400.</u>
	<u>\$4,300.</u>	<u>\$141,000.</u>

ESTIMATED LOSS & GAIN ACCOUNT as of JULY 1st, 1921.

Accumulated loss to July 1st, 1920.	\$294,000.
Estimated loss this year	141,000.
	<u>\$435,000.</u>

CASH VALUE of CAMPAIGN FUNDS  
as of July 1st, 1921

Total subscribed	\$6,400,000.	
Accrued interest to July 1st, 1921	<u>60,000.</u>	\$6,460,000.
Less:		
(1) Campaign Expenses	\$40,000.	
(2) Discount on \$3,000,000. for 2 years @ 6%	360,000.	
(3) Uncollected	<u>100,000.</u>	500,000.
		<u>\$5,960,000.</u>
Amount to wipe our accumulated deficit	\$435,000.	
Capital necessary to provide additional income required under present budget	<u>2,050,000.</u>	<u>2,485,000.</u>
		<u>\$3,475,000.</u>

MADE IN CANADA

2. After considerable discussion, the Meeting gave tentative approval to a building programme as follows :-

(1st) Starting this spring, the construction of an extension to the Old Medical Building, which, together with the present structure, would accommodate Physiology, Bio-chemistry, Zoology, and Botany. The estimated cost of this extension with equipment would be approximately \$375,000., less \$75,000. on hand from fire insurance money, making a net cost to the Campaign funds of \$300,000.

(2nd) Demolishing and rebuilding the interior of the Arts Building at an estimated cost of \$375,000. Construction to start in the Spring 1922.

(3rd) Extension to University Library to provide additional stack room, \$135,000., with an endowment of \$300,000. for books and Library assistants; total \$435,000. Construction to start in the Spring 1922.

(4th) University Gymnasium - net cost \$465,000. Construction to start in the Spring 1922.

(5th) Building to house Mining, Metallurgy, Geology and Electrical Engineering, with equipment, at a cost of \$500,000.

Totalling up these items, plus the balance of \$600,000. which is to be set aside for other Medical Buildings, we net a figure of \$2,675,000., leaving a balance of \$800,000. of the Campaign funds.

3. The Meeting selected Messrs. Ross and McDonald as the architects for the Old Medical Building extension, the alterations in the Arts Building, and the extension to the Library, and agreed that Professor Nobbs should be the associate-architect for this work. The Meeting agreed that the University was under an obligation to employ Professor Nobbs as ~~the~~ the architect on the Gymnasium. It was suggested, however, that Messrs. Ross and McDonald might act in a consulting capacity in regard to this work.

4. On Mr. Beatty's suggestion, the Principal was asked to form committees to confer with the architects on the design of these works, it being understood that there should be on each Committee a member of this <sup>General</sup> Committee and that the individual committees would report to this Committee, and that this Committee, through the Principal, would report to the Board their final recommendations covering this building programme.

Chairman.

**DOCKET ENDS:**

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

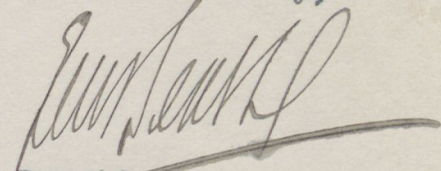
MONTREAL February 22nd, 1921.

Sir Arthur Currie,  
Principal,  
McGill University,  
M o n t r e a l.

My dear General:

I enclose herewith Messrs. Ross and MacDonald's letter of the 21st instant, together with executed copies which you left with me on Saturday afternoon.

Yours sincerely,



President.

ROSS & MACDONALD, ARCHITECTS  
BEAVER HALL HILL  
MONTREAL

GEORGE A. ROSS, F.R.I.B.A.  
ROBERT H. MACDONALD

February 21st-1921.  
MONDAY

Mr. E. W. Beatty,  
President,  
Canadian Pacific Railway Company,  
Montreal.

Dear Sir:-

We herewith acknowledge receipt of draft of agreement between McGill University and our firm, having reference to Architectural Services in Alterations and Extensions to the Arts and Medical Buildings. We note the decision of the Governors to exclude the Library from the present arrangement and to make separate agreements for the Arts and Medical Buildings.

This arrangement and also the terms embodied in the draft agreement are satisfactory to us. The latter we have executed as requested and return herewith the three copies for presentation to the Governors for final approval.

Yours very truly,

*Ross & Macdonald*

Encls.

29

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MONTREAL 10th February  
1921.

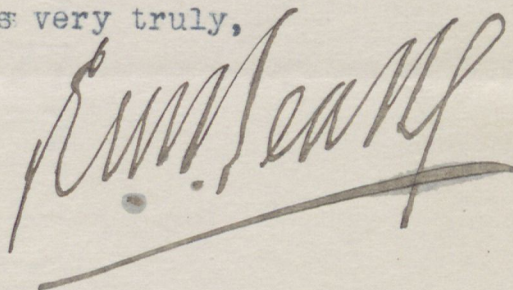
Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur Currie,  
Principal, Mc Gill University,  
M o n t r e a l.

My dear General Currie:-

Referring to my letter of the  
7th instant I now enclose draft of Agreement which Messrs.  
Ross and Macdonald have advised me is entirely satisfactory  
to them.

I have sent copy of the draft to Mr A.J.  
Brown K.C. and I presume it will be necessary for formal  
action to be taken by a Committee of the Governors confirming  
the arrangement and authorizing the execution of the document  
by yourself and the Secretary of the University.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R.M. Sealy", with a long horizontal flourish underneath.



**DOCKET STARTS:**

29

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MONTREAL February 7, 1921.

Lieutenant General Sir Arthur Currie,  
Principal, McGill University,  
Montreal.

My dear General Currie,-

I have had several interviews with Messrs. Ross & Macdonald in connection with the proposed alterations to and extension of McGill University buildings, with the result that on the 31st ultimo they sent me a proposal in writing with an accompanying form of agreement. These I had gone over by the Company's Solicitors, after consultation with our own Building Superintendent, and a revised agreement has been prepared and forwarded to-day to Mr. A. J. Brown for his consideration.

Messrs. Ross & Macdonald propose to charge a flat fee of  $7\frac{1}{2}\%$ , one-fifth of which will go to Professor Nobbs. They inform me that in fact this arrangement would mean an equal division of the net fee between Professor Nobbs and their firm, as they estimate 60% of the total fee is represented by necessary disbursements.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

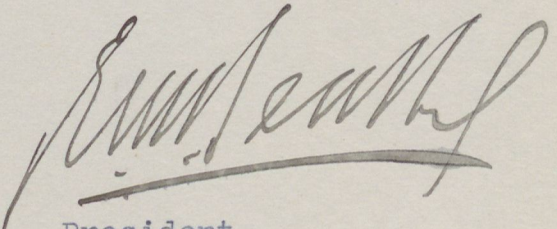
MONTREAL

Lieutenant General Sir Arthur Currie.

The arrangement is quite satisfactory, I think, as between Nobbs and Ross & Macdonald, but in view of the fact that the latter will have the benefit of the experience and knowledge of Mr. Lawrence, the University's Building Superintendent, I am suggesting to them that the fee might be slightly shaded.

As soon as the agreements are returned by Mr. Brown, I will forward them to you for approval by the Committee of the Governors.

Yours very truly,



President.

EWB/BEB.

**DOCKET ENDS:**

C O P Y

17th March, 1921.

Dear Sirs,-

I have to inform you that, at a meeting of the General Building Committee held last evening, the question of Professor Hobbs' services as Consulting Architect on the extension to the Old Medical Building was carefully considered.

The Meeting agreed that Clause 3 in the contract drafted between your Firm and the University should be struck out, and the following substituted therefor:-

"The University reserves the right to employ Percy E. Hobbs as Consulting Architect for such building, his fee for such work to be paid directly by the University."

Clause 7 should also be changed to read "5%" instead of 6%. I might explain that the new Clause 3 which we propose is worded in the manner shown because we are not as yet quite sure to what extent we will require Professor Hobbs' services on this work, and, since we are anxious that no time should be lost in the preparation of plans, etc., we felt that the best way to expedite the work would be to give you a free hand to go ahead.

I am enclosing herewith two amended copies of the agreement covering your contract with the University on this building, and if the changes are acceptable to you, would ask you to initial same.

Yours very truly,

Messrs. Ross & Macdonald  
1 Belmont St.,  
CITY.

(Sgd.) A. P. S. Glassco  
Secretary.

**DOCKET STARTS:**

C. GORDON MITCHELL, M.S.A.  
ARCHITECT  
127 STANLEY STREET  
MONTREAL.

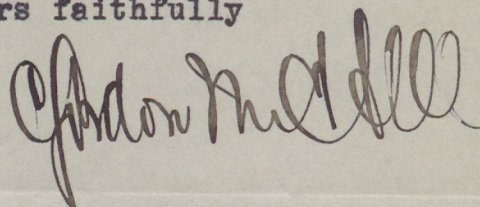
14, Feb, 1922.

Sir Arthur Currie K.C.M.G.  
Principal  
Mc.Gill University

Dear Sir/

Herewith find enclosed as per your request a  
Sketch outline of my Professional Experience.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "C. Gordon Mitchell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Yours faithfully".

C. GORDON MITCHELL, M.S.A.  
 ARCHITECT  
 127 STANLEY STREET  
 MONTREAL.

14th, Feb, 1922.

Sketch Outline of Professional Experience.

- 4, Years. With Messrs Garvie & Sons, Builders, Aberdeen. Scotland. learning the practical work of building.
- 1, " With Messrs Walker & Beattie. Civil Engineers, Aberdeen.
- 5, " With Wm. Curlett, Architect, as pupil and assistant, the latter two years I took charge of his office.
- 4, " Architect for the Erie Ry. New York. where I had full charge of the whole of their building operations with a staff of about thirty assistants under my control.
- 4, " With Sir Aston Webb. P.R.A. during which period I had charge of the construction of the Royal Victoria and Albert Museum. Sir Aston Webb, will at any time give me the highest references. (Cost about £1,000,000. Sterling)
- 20, " In practice for myself, in New York, London, and Montreal. For the past eight years I have been acting as Consulting Architect for The Mount Royal Tunnel & Terminal Co. and in that capacity I have erected several buildings for this Co. and for the National Railways, including the Power Station at the West Portal of the Tunnel (cost \$100,000.00) This latter I erected without a building contractor.



**DOCKET ENDS:**

**DOCKET STARTS:**

29

NOBBS & HYDE  
ARCHITECTS

PERCY E. NOBBS, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., R.C.A.  
GEORGE T. HYDE, B.Sc., S.B.

14 PHILLIPS SQUARE  
MONTREAL.

October 14, 1922.

Sir Arthur Currie,  
Principal,  
McGill University,  
Montreal.

re: Field House, Molson Stadium.

Dear Sir Arthur,

Following our conversation yesterday about the responsibility for delay at the Field House, I would like to put before you a short history of the job as shown by our records.

On May 31st we received a list of requirements from Dr. Lamb, and after several interviews with him, we prepared a set of sketch plans to place before a meeting of the Field House Committee, on June 8th. The Committee advised certain changes, and the revised plans were considered by the Field House Committee on June 12th. These plans were accompanied by a report, in which we made a preliminary estimate of cost. We asked for authority to make arrangements with a contractor to carry out the work on a cost plus basis, in order that the building might be comfortably completed early in September.

On June 15th a third meeting of the Field House Committee was held, and on June 19th a joint meeting with the University Building Committee. At this meeting we stated that it would take a month to prepare working plans and specifications and receive competitive tenders.

The Building Committee would not authorize a cost plus contract, without a guaranteed figure, consequently working plans and specifications had to be prepared. Tenders were asked for on July 7 and were received by us on July 17. Instructions were given us on July 19th to arrange with Messrs. D. G.

Oct.14/22

Loomis & Sons to carry out the work on a contract basis.

The contract called for completion of the work on or before September 10th, but I think it was generally understood by Dr. Lamb and ourselves that little inconvenience would result if the building was not available until the end of September.

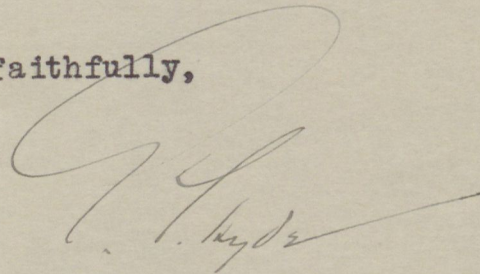
On October 3rd the teams took possession of three rooms in the building, with shower and lavatory accommodation. We were unable to provide electric light until October 9th. At the present date the structural portions of the building are practically complete, and were it not for the absence of lockers, the teams would have complete accommodation.

The locker situation has been my greatest trouble. It is quite impossible to do anything with it, and we can only prevent the firm responsible from tendering on work in our office in the future.

Any changes which have been found necessary during the progress of the work have been of a minor nature, and have in no way hindered the Contractor's progress. The incident of the shelving in the store-room is a fair sample of these changes.

Finally, I think it should be noted that since October 3rd the students have had at least as good accommodation as they have had at any time in the past, and that this accommodation has improved daily.

Yours faithfully,



GTH/C

**DOCKET ENDS:**

**DOCKET STARTS:**

21  
January  
Twentieth  
1921.

E. W. Beatty, Esq.,  
President, Canadian Pacific Railway,  
Montreal.

Dear Mr. Beatty:-

I am setting forth here the  
personnel of the several committees I was asked  
to constitute:

1. Old Medical Building (General Biological Bldg.)

- ✓ Mr. A. J. Brown, Chairman,
- ✓ Dr. John Tait,
- ✓ Dr. C. F. Martin, ✓ *Dr. Wiley Prof Lloyd Dr Macallum*
- ✓ Dr. J. W. Scane.

2. Arts, Commerce & Administration.

- ✓ Col. Herbert Molson, Chairman,
- ✓ Professor Harkness,
- ✓ Dr. A. S. Eve,
- ✓ Professor Sugars, *Dr. Waller*
- Mr. Glasco.

3. Library.

- ✓ Mr. Wm. M. Birks, Chairman,
- ✓ Dr. G. R. Lomer,
- Dr. R. F. Ruttan,
- ✓ Professor H. A. Smith.

4. Mining, Metallurgy & Geology.

- ✓ Mr. C.E. Neill, Chairman,
- ✓ Dr. J. B. Porter,
- Dr. J. A. Bancroft,
- ✓ Professor Mackay.

E. W. Beatty, Esq., - 2 -

5.

Gymnasium

✓ Mr. J. W. Ross, Chairman,  
✓ Dr. A. S. Lamb,  
✓ Professor E. Brown,  
Mr. Walter Molson.

I have not asked you to accept the Chairmanship of any one of these Committees on account of the probable additional duties in connection with the University you may have to assume shortly.

Ever yours faithfully,

Principal.



**DOCKET ENDS:**

HENRY MORGAN & CO LIMITED

COLONIAL HOUSE

MONTREAL

JULY  
TWENTY-FIRST  
1922.

Sir Arthur Currie  
Principal  
McGill University  
Montreal.

Dear Sir Arthur,

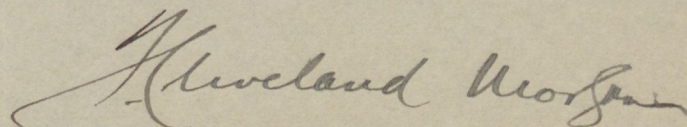
I sent you last week, through Mr. Glassco, a drawing of the proposed wrought iron gates for the Sherbrooke Street entrance of the University grounds.

This is only a preliminary sketch, and I intend to have several designs drawn, before submitting them to the Grounds Committee and then to the Graduate Society.

If you approve, in a general way, of the scheme, will you be good enough to return the plans to me? It is understood that the necessary funds will be raised through the Graduate Society, if they approve of the ~~scheme~~.

I do not think it advisable to call another meeting of the Grounds Committee until we have something definite to put before it.

Sincerely yours,



F.C.MORGAN/EF:

**DOCKET STARTS:**

HENRY MORGAN & CO LIMITED  
COLONIAL HOUSE  
MONTREAL

*Bldgs & Grounds*

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

April 16, 1923.

Sir Arthur Currie,  
Principal, McGill University,  
Montreal.

Dear Sir Arthur:

Subject - GROUNDS COMMITTEE.

As suggested at the last Meeting of the Grounds Committee, I have asked Mr. W.O. Roy, the Landscape Architect, to act on the Committee and he has agreed to co-operate in every possible way.

In order that he should be familiar with the situation, I have walked over the grounds with him and I now propose to call a Meeting in the near future to lay out a programme for the Summer months.

I will be in New York over the week-end but expect to be able to call the Meeting early next week.

Sincerely yours,

FCM/NBH.

*Cleveland Morgan*

July  
Twenty-fifth  
1922.

F. Cleveland Morgan Esq.,  
c/o Messrs Henry Morgan and Co. Limited,  
Montreal.

Dear Mr. Morgan:

I have your letter of the 21st instant re the gates for the Sherbrooke Street entrance.

I always think that nothing is more attractive than a beautifully designed gate, and for that reason give my most cordial approval to the suggestion for new gates for the Sherbrooke Street entrance. However, we must consider the fact that these gates would seldom be closed and I do not know that an open gate would make the entrance look any more attractive than if there were no gate at all. Sherbrooke Street entrance has become practically a thoroughfare.

With all good wishes and many thanks for your goodness in giving consideration to the beautifying of our grounds, I am,

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

**DOCKET ENDS:**