



## COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH.

DIVISION OF ECONOMIC BOTANY.

Oct 5.

1928

In reply refer to

Sir Arthur W. Currie,  
Principal,  
McGill University,  
Montreal.

My dear Sir Arthur:

The enclosed cutting was sent to me and I am passing it on to you. "Stephen Seacock" is almost synonymous with "McGill" here. You may easily understand that when so many search for the lighter side of life.

You will be pleased I hope, to know that my responsibilities have increased consequent on being asked to take charge of the whole field of Economic Botany with a salary of \$7,500. So far I like the people with whom I come in contact but my heart is not yet here, and never will be wholly in the nature of things.

We are "enjoying" another maritime upheaval with dangers of spread to other related industries - and it is the eve of a Federal Gen. Election.

I trust you are in the best of health.

Sincerely,  
B. Dickson

Chief

Division of Economic Botany



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putting into effect an economic boycott or a blockade. Among the warmest supporters of the scheme were some of the smaller European nations who, by virtue of it, would have received aid although offering nothing in return. Britain, of course, could not entertain it for a moment. The role of constable would have been both burdensome and invidious, for the measures required of Britain might well have involved her in a serious international quarrel. But it was rather unfortunate that the plan was ever brought forward, for it, quite unnecessarily, created a false impression in America. America, always suspicious where British naval policy is concerned, construed it as a subtle device for clothing Britain with increased powers, although the so-called "powers" were actually extremely onerous duties. Again, in 1926, Finland was the sponsor of a proposal for the establishment of an international war chest of £50,000,000, to be at the service of any nation threatened with attack. The idea was that Britain and the other great Powers should each find £10,000,000, to be given as a loan to the victim of aggression. Needless to say they were not enthusiastic. Altruism has its limits.

The Assembly now sitting has provided an example of an untimely proposal. Dr. Benes, of Czecho-Slovakia, advocated the immediate summoning of a disarmament conference. He was supported by Jonkeer Loudon, of Holland, who said that he intended to request the Governments of Britain, France, Italy, Japan, and the United States to send delegates to Paris forthwith. These gentlemen were inspired by the worthiest of motives, but M. Paul Boncour and Lord Cushendun had no difficulty in showing that the suggestion was inopportune. Lord Cushendun said that Jonkeer Loudon evidently did not appreciate the implications of such an invitation. The Powers in question are all signatories of the Washington treaty, which is to be reviewed in 1931. The adoption of the proposal would be tantamount to ante-dating the review, and this, for obvious reasons, would be undesirable. There is a further objection. Experience has repeatedly demonstrated that a disarmament conference has no prospect of success unless there has been due preparation. The want of this is held to have been the chief cause of the failure at Geneva last year. The delegates must meet forearmed with a knowledge of the special necessities and interests of the other nations represented. It is useless for them to wait until the conference is in session to acquire this information. At Geneva Britain and America were hopelessly at cross-purposes, yet it is quite possible that with a better understanding obstacles might have been surmounted and divergent viewpoints reconciled. This knowledge can best be gained by informal conversations, and the exchange of Notes such as have recently been proceeding between Britain and France. To dispense with these preliminaries and to rush headlong into conference would be to court disappointment. Lord Cushendun's reply to Jonkeer Loudon must not be interpreted as a sign of hostility to disarmament. Facts speak for themselves. Only a few days ago he told the Assembly that since the war Britain has voluntarily scrapped 2,000,000 tons, and that the personnel of the Navy is now 40,000 fewer than in 1914. No other nation can boast a reduction approaching this. Britain has given the world a lead.

A NOVEL FACULTY.

One of the American universities, it is said, is about to institute a Chair of Humour, and the innovation has so much to recommend it that the real wonder is that its possibilities have not long ere this, been seen and seized. The serious study of humour is in itself so beautiful a paradox that, if there be any virtue at all in intrinsic merit, the new chair is bound to be a success from the start. Unfortunately, we are not informed of the exact locality of the institution whose senate has decided thus to teach the world the gentle art of jesting; but it certainly ought to be the University of Chicago. For there, indeed, if the Mayor be truly representative of the citizens, the supply of those who badly need a course would

It would run, presumably, the whole gamut of the art, starting with a course in punning, which is, upon high authority, the "lowest form of humour," and proceeding thence by gradual steps through the bon-mot, the judicious drawing-room story, the after-dinner speech, and the gently ironical essay to the subtle mysteries of the Higher Witticism. There would be special courses, naturally, for politicians in the art of repartee, and for such members of the legal profession as desired to achieve the degree of "Judicial Humorist." A laboratory, it has been suggested, would be required, equipped with apparatus for experimenting in the latest methods of practical joking, and containing naturally an operating table for demonstrations in pulling the leg. But this is a refinement which, while greatly to be desired, can hardly be expected at so early a stage. So far as the minor details of the innovation are concerned, discussion may very well revolve about the matters of costume and the conferring of degrees. So far, however, as the former question is concerned, there can hardly be any doubt that the most appropriate dress to distinguish undergraduates of the new faculty from the ordinary wearers of the cap and gown would be a cap and bells; while the senior student of the year, being in a sense the biggest "card" in the whole pack, might very well be known as The Joker. The prospect which the new departure in scholastics opens up, regulated in this or some similar fashion, is fascinating, indeed. What nobler sight could one imagine than that of a group of spectacled young sophomores trying to be funny, and to instil into their earnest souls the saving salt of humour. The mere thought of it is enough to bring tears to the eye of any conscientious lover of his species.

As to the personnel of the students we need say little. The laws of supply and demand are always to be regarded as reliable; and that being so we may be sure that the classrooms will be filled. For the number of those lacking even the most elementary knowledge of the art of humour is as the sands of the sea; and if they all applied to be accepted as pupils no university in the world could hold them. The only factor that is likely to lessen the demand upon the services of the new professor is the incapacity of these unfortunates to recognise their own misfortune. They are ignorant of their own ignorance; and the very last thing to which the great majority of them will confess is that they lack that very sense of humour in which they are so conspicuously deficient. This blindness it is which will prevent—if anything should do so—the success of the new curriculum. But if it were not so—if, in regard to humour, men were as ready to admit their shortcomings as they are as a rule in other fields—how great might be the benefit bestowed upon the race by such a chair as this! Think of the list that might be made of persons to whom that benefit would mean so much. Think of those whose perverted ideas of humour might so fittingly be corrected to the advantage of themselves and everybody associated with them; think of the myriad dull and solemn heads that might be filled with wit and breezy and refreshing mirth. What a list we might prepare if we could but be sure that they whose names figured upon it would take the course. And first upon the list should be the name of him who made the great suggestion of this Chair of Humour. For he, above all others, surely needs it most!

PERSONAL.

The Premier (Mr. Bavin) left the city yesterday, to spend the week-end in the country. Mr. W. G. Davies, of Anthony Hordern's London office, will leave Sydney to-day for Melbourne, to join the R.M.S. Narkunda. He will leave the steamer at Marseilles for a Continental tour, prior to his return to London. Alderman Primrose, Mayor of North Sydney, and the Mayoress visited Neutral Bay Boys' Intermediate High School on Thursday, to present Mr. Heppburn (science master) with a case of pipes on behalf of the North Sydney Council, as a token of recognition for his services as secretary to the jubilee sports committee.

BUDGET SPEECH.

PROBABLY ON THURSDAY.

FINANCIAL MEASURES.

It is probable that the Budget speech will be delivered in the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday or Thursday. Now that the Address in Reply has been disposed of the path is clear for Parliament to settle down to business.

A meeting of the State Cabinet was held yesterday, when the programme for next week was discussed. Another meeting of the Ministry has been called for Monday morning, when the programme will be completed. The Transport and Hospitals Acts, and an amendment of the Local Government Act, will also be discussed.

Private members' business is to have precedence on Tuesdays up to 6 p.m., but as there are no notices of motion on the business paper, practically the whole of next Tuesday's sitting will be devoted to Government business.

The main measure to be dealt with on Tuesday will be a temporary Supply Bill covering two months. Its is anticipated by the Government that by the time that period has elapsed the Budget, financial measures arising therefrom, and the Estimates will be completed. The second reading of the Liquor (Amendment) Bill, and the first reading of the Housing and Fair Rents Bills, will be taken on Tuesday if time permits.

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It should not be difficult to draw up the curriculum for this new course of learning.

prospect which the new department in such a similar fashion, is fascinating, indeed. What nobler sight could one imagine than that of a group of spectacled young sophomores trying to be funny, and to instil into their earnest souls the saving salt of humour. The mere thought of it is enough to bring tears to the eye of any conscientious lover of his species.

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### MEDICAL DEGREES.

### CONFERRED AT UNIVERSITY.

In the Great Hall of the University yesterday afternoon, 34 of the successful candidates at the recent final degree examination in medicine were admitted to their degrees. On the dais were the Vice-Chancellor (Professor R. S. Wallace), the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine (Professor D. A. Welsh), the Registrar (Mr. W. A. Selle), Professor A. E. Mills, Miss S. J. Williams (principal of the Women's College), Miss I. M. Fidler (president of the Women's Union), Rev. A. H. Garnsey (Warden of St. Paul's College), and the Rev. L. E. Bennett (master of Wesley College).

The graduates were presented by the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and were admitted to their degrees by the Vice-Chancellor.

Short addresses were delivered by the Vice-Chancellor and the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine congratulating the graduates on attaining the goal of their ambitions, and wishing them, on behalf of the University, every success in their careers in the medical profession.

### NEARING THE END.

### FEDERAL PARLIAMENT.

CANBERRA, Friday.

An all-night sitting to-night, and a sitting throughout to-morrow, are expected by Ministers to obviate the necessity for asking Federal members to return to Canberra next week. In that event the life of the present Parliament will end to-morrow night, in time to allow members to catch the Melbourne and Sydney trains.

The Governor-General (Lord Stonehaven) will be asked for a dissolution so that the election campaign may be begun early in October.

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May 17th, 1930.

Dr. Stephen Leacock,  
The Old Brewery Bay,  
Orillia, Ontario.

Dear Stephen,

Thank you very much for your letter of the 14th. You must not think of trying to come to McGill this month, nor until the autumn. You must spend the intervening time regaining your health. I have seen Hemmeon more than once, and it is his intention to stay here until the 15th of June, when, he says, everything will be arranged for the coming year.

Hemmeon looks better now than he has ever looked for years. He is putting on weight and it is a good thing. He told me this morning that he weighs 182 lbs. and that he never felt better in his life. Last fall, when I induced him to consult with Rabinovitch, he was greatly worried about himself and he looked it. One could see at a glance that he was apprehensive and Rabinovitch's assurance to him that he was all right meant as much as anything else.

One thing that I want you to get into your mind, Stephen, is that there is nothing wrong with you that will not respond to sensible treatment. The person to be sensible is yourself, for you, more than anyone else, must be your own doctor. You have plenty of will power, in fact, you are almost stubborn; and now I would like to see you exercise a little of this will power over yourself. You will recall that I did not want you to go to Orillia at the time you went; but you were bound to go, and Willy Turner was weak enough to allow you to have your own way - in fact, I believe that is why you have him as your physician. I knew that if you got up there you would not come back for this observation in a hospital,



and I also know that every time you feel well you think of shingling your house or painting your boat or digging a post hole or something else equally foolish under the circumstances.

I don't know much about medicine but I have, I hope, a little common sense, and I tell you most emphatically that what you need is quiet and rest, no work and no worry, and you will be as right as a trivet in the autumn. What you need also, is a little discipline. I know you won't let anyone else discipline you, so you must discipline yourself. Now, for God's sake, Stephen, be sensible. It is fair neither to yourself, to this University, nor the world, if you do not give yourself the best chance to recover your former vigor. - I hope you don't mind my scolding, Stephen; it is well-intentioned, and we are all so fond of you that we are profoundly interested.

Principal.



May 27th, 1931

Dr. Stephen Leacock,  
The Old Brewery Bay,  
Orillia, Ontario.

I have telephoned Miss Cumming, and she has made a note of it and will promise me to admit Peggy Shaw, unless there is some scholarship involved, and if that is the case she can make no promise.

The other letter you mentioned writing to me, has not yet arrived.

With kind regards,

I am,

Ever yours faithfully,

Principal.



My dear Sir Arthur

By this same mail I send you a letter on college business. But apart from that I want to ask you to do a personal favour for me, or rather for some of my friends

You are, I believe, ex officio, one of the directors of Trafalgar school. At present the number of applications for admission as boarders is far beyond the accommodation. Two friends of mine Mr + Mrs Herbert Shaw of Redpath Crescent Montreal want to enter their little girl as a boarder next year and Mr Shaw has asked me to write and get you to use your influence. Peggy Shaw + my little boy have been playmates all their lives, so that naturally I am much interested

Peggy is 12 years old, a bright sweet child, very artistic, and in excellent health

I believe that Mr Shaw is writing to Miss Cummings. But would it be too much to ask you to call her up <sup>on the telephone</sup>, & I am sure that a word from you will settle it.

With best regards

Sir Arthur Currie  
M Gill

Stephen Leacock



THE OLD BREWERY BAY  
ORILLIA

May 14 . 1930 .

My dear Sir Arthur

I am sorry to say that I find it not advisable to try to get back to Mill at all this month . . . . I am getting on well enough but I get a bad spell every now & then when I find it troublesome to keep on my feet and when my 'cruising radius' is limited . . . I imagine I'll be all right in a month . . . . I am so much obliged for your visit to my house the other day: till you came I had been getting quite nervous but your talk was most encouraging . . . . Hemmeon sends word that everything is going along quite all right.

With sincerest thanks for your  
kindness

Stephen Leacock



McGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND  
POLITICAL SCIENCE

April 29 1930

Sir Arthur Currie

McGill University

My dear Sir Arthur

I am sorry to say that I have not been very well for the last five days.

I have a giddiness which comes & goes & which makes it hard for me to undertake to do anything at a fixed time.

With your approval I will ask Stearnson to act as head for the few weeks left this term & I will come & go as best I can. In any case lectures are over & I have hardly any work.

Very sincerely

Stephen Leacock

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McGILL UNIVERSITY  
MONTREAL

Sir Arthur Currie  
McGill.

Dear Mr Principal

I am invited to go to Chicago  
in Easter Week to address the  
English Speaking Union. It is quite  
a compliment ~~to~~ I am glad to  
accept. But it will prevent me  
from having the pleasure of meeting  
& hearing Sir Arthur Salter.

I am writing him a letter  
in your care to tell him how  
disappointed I am to miss him

Very faithfully

Stephen Leacock

Apr 10 33



McGILL UNIVERSITY  
MONTREAL

FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND  
POLITICAL SCIENCE

copies  
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Leacock

Dear Mr Principal


Since I saw you I  
wrote this.

I have no copy & would  
be glad to have the MS back

I hope you have time  
to read it

Behind it, is 32 years  
of deep thought

Mr 13 1932

  
Sutphen Leacock



Memorandum on The Organisation of Research

by Stephen Leacock

Copy  
April 13, 1932.

By research is meant the investigation at first hand of individual single facts and phenomena with a view to combining our knowledge of them into general laws and wider truths. Research is thus different from exposition, which means only the presentation of facts, and different also from instruction which involves the method of imparting facts. It is different also from creative literary work for which facts and phenomena are only as color and oil to the painter who makes of them something which is neither colour nor oil.

Now in the various departments of intellectual activity research is of a varying importance. In some branches it stands at the top. In others at the bottom. In the physical sciences research leads to discovery, and discovery to invention, and from invention originates the condition and mechanism of our collective life. Here research is of tremendous importance and of indescribable attraction, and may meet, sought or unsought, a great pecuniary reward.

But in other subjects research is only the gathering of little facts for other men to use. It corresponds to the pick and shovel work of men making a drain in order that other men may enjoy the facilities of a bath room. It is necessary but is not attractive. It is to be desired that some one should find out for us, from the dust-bin of records, whether Dollard des Ormeaux had sixteen companions or nineteen. But the "discovery" that he only had sixteen is of small consequence to the life of the ordinary man, and to the historian only as a minute touch of colour on a brush of a painter: the problem is how to use the brush. The writing of history is only as much a product of research as a painting is a product of a hardware store. Mr. Jongers would be greatly surprised if Philbins Hardware Store (Paint a Specialty) claimed the chief credit



for his portrait of Sir Andrew Macphail.

It is well to lay stress on this fact for there exists in this matter a great confusion of mind. The word "research" has acquired an inordinate prestige. It shoves aside scholarship and learning and creative genius. In many subjects it entirely reverses the proper order of precedence among men. It seats mere plodding industry in a chair never intended for it.

The essence of the argument lies in the distinction of subjects. Research in physical science is everything; "research" in political economy is but a small business; research in literature is next to nothing. In many instances "research" sinks lower than this. It becomes mere humbug, a pretentious presentation of a mass of little facts which are of no bearing upon anything. Research when endowed and equipped and subsidized runs easily to that sort of thing.

From what is said above it is meant to follow that research in the literary, social and historical branches is a secondary matter. Its results are not "inventions", but material. It does not represent achievement, but only the means by which others may achieve. Apart from the exact sciences, most of our great writers and thinkers, and most of our inspired and influential teachers had nothing to do with research. It played no part in the life of Shakespeare, Tennyson or Dickens. Neither Ricardo nor John Stuart Mill ever touched it. Kant and Hume and Bergson never thought of it. Neither Goldwin Smith nor Thiers nor Emil Ludwig dealt in it. In other words, in all the literary and social fields most of our eminent men have lived and died without it, and the great mass of scholars and teachers and cultivated men have had no contact with it. Here and there the transcendent genius of a Gibbon or a Macaulay may be at once applied to minute investigation of minute facts and the creative presentation of grand results. For the common run of us, this is denied.

The fact to be established is that research in the things spoken of is only



contributory. It is not final. It is no challenge or test of scholarship or service whether a professor does or does not wish to engage in it. In a well-ordered institution of learning research should be for those who have a special aptitude or desire, I must not say a special limitation, in that direction. If this point is granted, it means that research becomes for any one professor a matter of choice and not an obvious duty. It must be voluntary, or it becomes mechanical, false and worthless. A school of research should be organised on a purely voluntary basis. Only those who want to do it should be asked to do it.

I have written what goes above as an extended preface to what follows. The aim has been to set the subject in the place where it belongs.

I now turn to the question of the organisation and object of research in the social, economic and political sciences. I wish to deal here with the case of research already endowed and compensated by funds that must be used for research or not used at all. It is quite obvious that some very simple and primitive considerations enter into this case. It is a pity not to use money when it is there. But conscience also enters in. It is wrong to use it to false purpose.

A research committee should, therefore, dismiss at once from its mind that every department and every professor should be desirous, or should be obliged, to share in its work. It should look for persons to whom its funds offer a desired opportunity, make available an activity otherwise denied. Let us see what it has to offer to such people. In the physical sciences, I repeat, everything: in the social sciences nothing much, except for those of a strong bent towards a peculiar task. We must not start from the idea that offering research to a professor is like offering hay to a horse.

The committee, therefore, should address itself first to finding out who wants to do research. What can it offer them? The opportunity to have their work printed and presented to the world: this is much, but it is not everything. It still leaves the professor in question with his daily work of the classroom to be



done and with such other outside activities to perform as will bring his income up to the point represented by the standard of living necessary for a scholar and a gentleman. A shabby man, harassed with a narrow home, unable to meet on even terms the men of his own age and standing, cannot fully serve his college. It is unfair to ask him to devote himself to research paid for with his own time and sacrifice, achieved by the loss of outside opportunity and income and compensated only by the publication of his work. What further can the committee offer him. One thing certainly: they can offer him the clerical help of students gathering facts under his direction, of stenographers saving him the long labour of handwriting, - as evinced in the present document. This is a great deal. But even this does not meet the main difficulty. If I were to state the case by asking what is there in it for the professor? the question would sound sordid, mercenary, and carry with it its condemnation. But if we ask, how is a professor already fully employed to find time for research work, then the problem is apparent. Let me repeat again that this argument has no reference to physical, medical and biological science where research brings its own reward in discovery, or the hope of it. Research there is the search for gold. But not so, where the research consists of trying to find out who was Champlain's mother, in order that one little fact may be added to historical knowledge.

The conclusion is clear that if men are to "research" they must be set free to do it, either their teaching time cut down, or a sum of money given them to remove them from the need of supplementing their salary by outside work. But this at once opens wide the door to the inrush of new difficulties. On this footing, human nature being what is is, all the professors will want to start research. If research means only a name for a higher salary coupled with a silent and unseen activity for which the professor's bodily existence is the only proof, no endowment fund could feed the eager desire for minute knowledge thus created.



Between these two difficulties the committee must grope its way. It must not hand out money for idle men to become more idle still. It must not expect those who work hard already to make sacrifices still greater.

The choice can be made. The thing can be achieved. But it is hard. The committee must invite those who want to work to state what they want to do and how they want to do it. It must estimate as best it can the value of what they propose. It must accept or reject. Where work is accepted the committee can arrange for assistance. In this it may use a liberal hand. It may offer the services of graduate fellows without fear of misuse for here it is filling a double purpose. The graduate student who spends a part of his time in technical assistance to a research worker, is himself in pursuit of a higher degree and helps to build up a graduate school.

But within this frame work, I think that the best line of opportunity will be found in straining to the utmost the meaning of the word research. In all the historical and social and economic sciences, I would widen it to include studies of a technical nature involving general material, and not necessarily implying the search for new single facts. In this sense I would call a life of General Wolfe, or a book on the "Banking System of the United States", research. I would aid a professor to write a history of Emigration to America, or a critical biography of Tennyson. I would carry this process just as far as the frame of the endowment could be stretched. The field thus enlarged would attract any number of workers. It would invite much sacrifice. It would offer a goal to industry and ambition. It would light a lamp that would shine from the windows of the college. There would be no difficulty in setting it to work except that of selecting without favor, and judging without discrimination, and rejecting without offence.

If I summarize what I say, it is this. We must dismiss the idea that research is for all: that it is an obligation on a department: a duty of every professor. We must dismiss equally the idea that research is done by students:



all that they can do is to gather material under direction. We must widen the conception of research till it includes a cultural range calculated to attract the efforts of scholars in the larger sense.

Stephen Leacock

April 13, 1932.

Appended Pages

To what goes above I would like to append, on less certain ground, a further suggestion. I think it might be possible to solve the difficulty of the financial relation of the professor to the work done as follows:-

A certain number of the publications represent work that would to some extent find a market with the general public if put out in ordinary book form. These might be issued as a Research Series and in part given away to libraries and as exchange publications, and in part sold in the ordinary book trade. The cost of manufacture would be about \$1.00 per bound volume. The retail price could be \$2.00 and the writer could receive a 25% royalty not only on the copies sold but on the copies given away. The copies sold would run to about 250 and the copies given away might be as many. Thus the royalty would be \$250. If to this were added a flat honorarium of say \$200, (on actual publication not for work in progress), the professor would receive \$450. with a certain chance for more. I think this sum, small as it is, would be enough to induce many professors to lay aside other work in order to take up something which would really attract their interest and, in a sense, form its own reward.

I say this with the more assurance in that I would be one of those to do it.

Stephen Leacock.



March 13, 1933

F. I. Kerr, Esq.,  
THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR,  
Hamilton, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Kerr,

I have your letter of March 11th with reference to the desire of the American Newspaper Publishers' Association to have Stephen Leacock as one of their speakers on the occasion of their Annual Dinner on Thursday, April 27th. I shall put the matter up to Stephen when I see him, though I do not think that he will accept the invitation.

Let me tell you an interesting story about Stephen. At one time the American Bankers' Association wished him to be their dinner speaker. They offered him several hundred dollars and his expenses to New York. Stephen refused. They then approached the Bank of Montreal in New York, who got in touch with the Bank here, and the Bank asked me to use what influence I had to induce Stephen to go. Stephen's reply was that he was not going to be the cabaret performer for the American Bankers' Association. I may say that by that time they had offered to raise the fee to a thousand dollars and expenses. Stephen said that if they would let him attend one of their regular sessions and speak on the restoration of the gold standard or some other equally important subject he would go to New York and pay his own expenses for the privilege of speaking to them; but he would not go in order to make fun for them or for any other association. I greatly fear he will feel the same way about the American Publishers' Association.

I notice that Miss Amelia Earhart has accepted. Her claim to fame, I suppose, is that she flew the Atlantic. I do not think it is quite fair to Leacock to ask him to mix up with such "celebrities" when the principal reason for asking him is that he shall make fun for those who wish to have a pleasant evening. However, I shall let you know what he says.

Ever yours faithfully,

Principal



# The Spectator

Hamilton, Canada

March 11th, 1933

To Dr. Leacock.  
What shall the  
Principal say in  
reply?

General Sir Arthur W. Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,  
Principal,  
McGill University,  
Montreal, P. Q.

Dear Sir Arthur:

The American Newspaper Publishers Association, which includes practically all the leading daily newspapers in the United States and Canada, is holding its annual meeting in New York city on April 25, 26, 27, and 28, and the big event of this gathering is the annual dinner, which takes place on Thursday, April 27th. They usually have four short speeches by outstanding Americans and Britishers. This year the speakers that have already accepted invitations are Miss Amelia Earhart, Mr. Douglas, the man whom Roosevelt has appointed as Director of the budget, and Mr. Kettering, who is, I think, the economist of the General Motors Corporation. I have just received a telegram from New York asking whether it is likely that Mr. Stephen Leacock would accept an invitation to be the fourth speaker, not only as a distinguished Britisher, but as one so capable of introducing an element of humour and cheer into the proceedings. I have just had a long conversation with New York in which I pointed out that Mr. Leacock, who held the high office of Professor of Political Economy at McGill University, was primarily an economist, and, like all real humourists, was only a humourist when the spirit moved him, and that we could not properly invite him to be one of the speakers and then restrict him to a humorous speech. They fully recognized the correctness of this attitude, but said that circumstances in the United States at the present time were such that in the public interest they felt like taking some liberties in this instance; the gloom of the publishers was so thick that some efforts had to be made to dispel it, and that they could think of no one so capable of taking hold of the situation and putting the finishing touches on the dinner as Stephen Leacock, if he could be prevailed upon to do so. In all of which I agreed with them.

I said, therefore, that I would place the matter before you and ask your advice in the hope that you might sound Mr. Leacock out and see whether he felt disposed to go down to New York and cheer his publisher friends up a bit, and through them the American people.

I hope I am not putting you to too much trouble. I think the cause is an excellent one, and the moment perhaps psychological for one

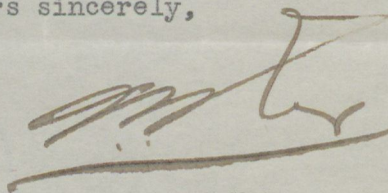


- 2 -

of Mr. Leacock's attainments. If he is willing to accept, would you kindly send me a wire and a formal invitation will be forwarded to him.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'F. I. Ker', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line that serves as a separator between the signature and the typed name below.

F. I. K E R.



# The Spectator

Hamilton, Canada

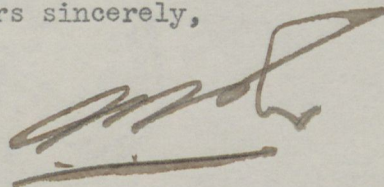
March 11th, 1933

General Sir Arthur W. Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,  
Principal,  
McGill University,  
Montreal, P. Q.

Dear Sir Arthur:

I felt it unnecessary to state in  
the enclosed letter that this would have to be  
one of the occasions when Mr. Leacock's presence  
would be purely out of compliment to the occasion.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'F. I. Ker', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line that serves as a separator between the signature and the printed name.

F. I. K E R.



# The Spectator

Hamilton, Canada

March 14th, 1933

Sir Arthur W. Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,  
Principal,  
McGill University,  
Montreal, P. Q.

Dear Sir Arthur:

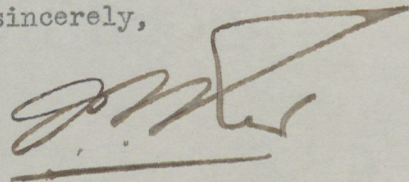
It was very kind of you to speak to Mr. Leacock in connection with the matter about which I wrote to you on Saturday. I had hoped that my letter had been phrased in such a way as to have delivered the Publishers from any such impropriety as that into which the American Bankers Association seems to have fallen.

This banquet is probably the most important banquet held in New York during the year. The speeches get wide publicity both over the air and in the columns of the newspapers. The occasion offers a magnificent opportunity for the man who can say the right thing in the right way. Humour is a vehicle in which profound truths may be safely and gently delivered, and from this viewpoint making fun for those who wish to have a pleasant evening is of secondary importance.

All this, however, is beside the purpose of my letter, which is to thank you very much indeed for your interest in the matter.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,



F. I. K E R.



MCGILL UNIVERSITY  
MONTREAL

FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND  
POLITICAL SCIENCE

**PROFESSOR LEACOCK  
CHOSEN TO LECTURE**  
Professor Stephen Leacock, of McGill University, has been invited to give, next February at Convocation, the annual Kappa Delta Pi lecture. This foundation was created 20 years ago, and under its terms some distinguished leader in education is invited once a year to give an address dealing with the problems of education. Previous lecturers have been Dr. John Dewey, Professor William Phelps and other well known university authorities. The lecture is held in rotation in the university centres of the United States. The Kappa Delta Pi organization is established in 89 different colleges and has an enrolment of 17,000 members.

Sir Arthur Currie  
McGill  
Near Mr Principal

Star. Dec 16

As the giving of this  
Foundation Lecture is  
thought a great honour, I was so granted  
that I might accept it with your entire  
approval. It is held this year in  
Minneapolis and involves 4 days  
absence, but I will arrange for my  
work without anything being missed

File  
Have spoken to  
Leacock about  
this.

V Faithfully  
Stephen Leacock

21/12/32 [Signature]



News from the Belgian Congo.

"NEVER".

In New York Herald Tribune magazine for January 7th, Professor Leacock suggests that the Congo basin be ceded to the United States in payment of war debts.

Recognizing that the Congo is worth more than the amount of the Belgian debt to the U.S, Professor Leacock of McGill University suggests that the States could give the Belgians in return for the Congo a sum of money which would pay their internal debts also.

If such a proposal were ever made officially to the Belgian Government the answer would be "Never".

England, France and Portugal who possess other parts of the Congo would undoubtedly give a similar answer.

"The Belgian Nation" (name of paper)

The other article under the heading, "An impossible suggestion" relates in the same terms the contents of Dr. Leacock's article, then commenting that this is only Dr. Leacock's suggestion, and that undoubtedly no other American would support it. The paper vigorously repudiates such a proposal, and thinks that it is not so certain a fact that Belgium is indebted to the United States.

They quote protests from the deputies of the French Antilles against a similar suggestion from McFadden.

They are specially indignant over the reflections on the Belgian inability to handle the Congo, and they insinuate that the head of the Political Economy Department at McGill, should be better informed.



February 5, 1932.

A. Remes, Esq.,  
Consulat General de Belgique,  
Montreal.

My dear Consul Remes,

Let me acknowledge your letter of February 1st in which you enclose a copy of a Canadian Press despatch as published in the Vancouver Star of the date 18th of January. Let me at once say that I am glad to have your assurance that you look on me as a friend of Belgium, for which country, its soldiers and its noble King and Queen I have the very highest regard.

With reference to the article written by Professor Stephen Leacock for the New York Tribune Sunday Magazine, let me say that I never attempt to explain or to defend any article by one of the professors of this University. I do not suppose I read one-twentieth of what they write. We are proud of the fact that at McGill there is no limitation placed upon what a professor may write or say at any time or in any place. All that we try to ask is that a professor knows what he is talking about, recognises that there are two sides to every question and that he is not a paid propagandist. As to the source of Professor Leacock's information, he draws my attention to the following facts. In February 1908 a British parliamentary paper (Africa No.1, 1908) was issued containing consular reports concerning the state of affairs in the Congo. The consul at Boma after detailing various abuses added, "The system which gave rise to these abuses still continues unchanged and so long as it is unaltered the condition of the nations must remain one of veiled slavery." On the same day the British Foreign Secretary, Sir Edward Grey (later Viscount Grey) declared that "the Congo State had morally forfeited every right to international recognition." (Enc. Brit. 1927, Vol.6, p. 245)



Let me add that personally I have no sympathy with any suggestion that war debts can be paid by the alienation of part of the debtor's territory.

With all good wishes,

I am,

Yours faithfully,

Principal.



McGILL UNIVERSITY  
MONTREAL

FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND  
POLITICAL SCIENCE

Dear Mr Principal

I thank you for the letter which I enclose. It seems to call for nothing more than an ordinary acknowledgement, as you can hardly be expected to read all the articles written by profusion & explain & defend them.

But in case you are interested I enclose on another sheet ample authority for anything I write and much more.

Yr sincerely  
Stephen Leacock

Feb 3 1932



McGILL UNIVERSITY  
MONTREAL

FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCE  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND  
POLITICAL SCIENCE

Dear Mr Principal

H 21932

For your information :-

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Sir Arthur Currie,  
McGill University

Very sincerely

Stephen Leacock



CONSULAT GÉNÉRAL DE BELGIQUE

No. 366/CL: 5280.

Montreal, February 1st, 1932.

Enclosure.

Dear Sir Arthur,

Since I look upon you as a friend of my Country, I venture to submit to you a copy of information which appeared in the "Vancouver Star" of the 18th January.

This refers to an article written by Professor Stephen Leacock, for the "New York Herald-Tribune Sunday Magazine".

If the information is correct, the Head of the Department of Political Economy at McGill University suggests nothing less than the further spoliation of the country which has most completely and most innocently suffered by the Great War, and he sets forth a solution of the war debts problem at the expense of Belgium, which at the time of the Armistice was left entirely deprived of her economic equipment, systematically destroyed under the German occupation.

The article contains a grave — though vague — criticism of the administration of the Belgian Congo. This I presume to allude to the campaign conducted in certain quarters some twenty five years ago, and which after a while subsided when the character of some of its most active agents and the motives underlying the agitation (commercial rivalry and sectarian antagonism) had been effectively exposed.

General

No doubt

Sir Arthur Currie,  
Principal and Vice-Chancellor,  
McGill University,  
Montreal.

To Prof Leacock  
What do you  
suggest as my  
reply. W. Currie  
2/1/32.

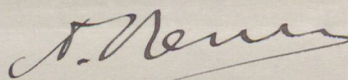


No doubt the people generally also realized the enormous difficulties encountered by the Belgians in their pioneer work in one time darkest Africa, which precisely they were so largely instrumental in opening up for the world economy.

The Belgian Congo never did compare unfavourably with other colonies of a similar nature and I hold at the disposal of Professor Leacock or any one else who may be interested any documentary evidence which they may desire of the achievements of the Belgian Administration and Belgian enterprise in their african Colony.

On the other hand, I should, of course, be interested to know whether Professor Leacock is in a position to substantiate his view by specific and well establish facts.

Yours very truly,



A. REMES,

Consul General of Belgium in Canada.

P.S. I hear that the "Vancouver Daily Province", on the 19th January, in a leading article, commented on the somewhat free fashion in which some Americans have hinted that certain parts of Canadian territory might be surrendered to the United States in payment of British War Debts.



From "Vancouver Star", 18th January 1932.

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CESSION OF CONGO BASIN TO U.S.  
IN LIEU OF WAR DEBTS PROPOSED

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Canadian Press Despatch

NEW YORK, Jan. 17.— The rich Congo basin, lying in the heart of equatorial Africa, is proposed as payment by debtor countries, in the stead of cash reparations to the United States, by Stephen Leacock, head of the department of political economy at McGill University, Montreal, in an article appearing in the New York Herald-Tribune Sunday magazine section.

Describing this area of 1,500,000 square miles, now owned in its three divisions by Belgium, France and Great Britain, as "exuberantly fertile", Professor Leacock points to the great possibilities of development. He sees the great Congo River as the "real gateway for African trade", and says a real seaport at the mouth of the Congo would "become one of the great harbors of the world's shipping".

He says the United States, with its money, machinery and brains, is the one country to undertake the great development. Thus, would be set in motion, he believes, "a new world movement of prosperity".

Negroes of the United States, descendants of the Congo natives, "would come back, millions of workers", says Professor Leacock, "equipped with the white man's knowledge, ingrained with the white man's purpose," after six generations of work.

"All that is needed," he writes, "is a new congress on adjustment of debts and reparations on a basis of territorial sovereignty. The Belgians could be squared by letting them off their debts to England and the United States; even their own debt of \$1,000,000,000 might be thrown in. If the sanctity of their home territory was such that it set the world to war, the lack of sanctity of their colonial territory is such that it may be used to set the world at peace. France could move out of the French Congo without knowing it, and very few British people are aware that they own any of the Congo basin. Perhaps, even, an odd corner of the map could be found for Mussolini, and an island — there are said to be 4,000 islands in the Congo — for the Germans."



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October 3, 1931.

Dr. Stephen Leacock,  
McGill University.

My dear Stephen,

I cannot tell you how much I appreciate your offer to go to the Teachers' Convention next Friday morning at ten o'clock and speak to them in my stead. It will be a help in time of need.

I am sending you a little memorandum I used when speaking to the Protestant Commission on this subject.

Ever yours faithfully,



August 7, 1931.

Dr. Stephen Leacock,  
Old Brewery Bay,  
Orillia, Ontario.

My dear Stephen,

Certainly you may quote my letter  
to Dr. Manion, any part of my letter you like. Let  
me repeat that I want to impress upon you that you must  
look after your health.

Ever yours faithfully,

Principal



THE OLD BREWERY BAY  
ORILLIA

My dear Sir Arthur

Chignecto canal: yes, very likely you're  
right. I'll take another think. If I  
decide to drop it, - to prevent it looking  
like shilly-shallying - may I quote  
your letter confidentially to Dr. Manion.

Agricultural Economics & Macdonald  
College. I am much interested  
in this: know exactly what to do  
& will do it at once when I return.

Two of our staff (Eulliton & myself)  
are interested, he in western agrarian  
stuff & I in central Canada.

Very best regards

Stephen Leacock

Aug 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup>, or if  
may be the 7<sup>th</sup>.



July 31st, 1931.

Dr. Stephen Leacock,  
Old Brewery Bay.  
Orillia,  
Ontario.

My dear Stephen,

Some time ago you telegraphed to me saying that you had been asked by the Bennett Government to accept the Chairmanship of the Chignecto Canal Commission, and I wired you giving my consent.

I have thought about this several times since and have wondered whether it was wise on your part to accept this Chairmanship. I have always found that that sort of thing only adds to one's worries. You know that in the last year or so your health has not been as good as all your friends would like it to be, and I believe that any additional worry is bound to be prejudicial to your health.

A couple of years or so ago MacKenzie King offered me the Chairmanship of that Commission, and I refused it, solely for reasons of health. I put it to you that you ought to think this thing over very carefully before undertaking the work.

We have had devilish hot weather and much rain in Montreal lately.

Kindest wishes always,

Ever yours faithfully,



# CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY'S TELEGRAPH



FORM T. D. 1 X

## TELEGRAM

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STANDARD TIME.

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RAA10 64 NL BACKDATE= ORILLIA ONT JULY 23-24=

SIR ARTHUR CURRIE= MCGILL UNIVERSITY MONTREAL QUE=

THE GOVERNMENT OFFER ME POSITION CHAIRMAN CHIGNECTO CANAL  
COMMISSION STOP WORK TO OCCUPY A YEAR OR MORE BUT NOT TO  
INTERFERE WITH MY COLLEGE DUTIES STOP I AM CERTAIN THAT YOU  
WILL FEEL AS I DO THAT IT IS AN HONOR BOTH TO THE COLLEGE AND  
TO ME BUT I THINK IT PROPER NOT TO SEND MY FINAL ACCEPTANCE  
TILL I HAVE YOUR BLESSING=

STEPHEN LEACOCK=

University will approve your accepting chairmanship Chignecto Commission  
I congratulate government upon securing your services. Currie.

phoned

18/9/37



MCGILL UNIVERSITY  
MONTREAL

Friday Apr 17

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND  
POLITICAL SCIENCE

My dear Sir Arthur

I am so sorry not to be among  
the first to welcome you back and hear  
your news. But, with your permission,  
I am taking this Saturday's boat  
out of New York, and Stevie & I are  
going to Bermuda and back.

You will be glad to know that I  
put in all the sessions with hard work &  
no fatigue at all till just at the end I  
felt a little off & decided on this trip.  
We got a boat back on the 28<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>.

Pa  
and

With best welcome to you &  
Lady Currie

Stephen Leacock

Sir A. Currie

595 ill @



Saturday morning

My dear Mr Principal

I thought perhaps that I  
would write this out myself. So  
I hand it to you with your  
breakfast.

V. Smith

Substantia



✓  
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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND  
POLITICAL SCIENCE

A Memorandum  
On a Proposal for  
Export Bounties on  
Canadian Manufactures

---

This proposal suggests the paying of bounties out of the proceeds of general taxation to all Canadian manufacturers who sell anything outside of Canada; and to pay <sup>to</sup> the large business more than the small, not only absolutely but even in proportion to the business done.

It is to be noted that the proposal involves bounties on the whole of the existing export trade in manufactures; that it involves bounties paid on articles consumed in the United States to the extent of the whole difference of the cost of production in the United States and



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here. This alone, without any question of increase of business would involve an enormous burden. The Canadian taxpayer, (up till the time when he went broke) would thus enable the Canadian manufacturer to undersell everybody, everywhere. In practice the details of home cost and foreign cost could not be closely followed: The main reliance would have to be placed on the manufacturer's own statement as to what bonus he ought to get. In some cases it would be, as a percentage, very, very high; Canada is an expensive country, a country of very high costs. Even a cursory examination of the costs of making motor cars and



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POLITICAL SCIENCE

agricultural implements will show a great difference between Canadian costs and foreign costs.

There is no doubt of course that under this plan while it lasted, the manufacturer would find his business greatly stimulated. The greater his present disadvantage in production, the larger his opportunity, I can see no limit to the expansion of manufacturing in Canada ~~in Canada~~ under this plan, except the ability of the people who do not derive profits from the Canadian manufacturing system to pay for it. Speaking personally, — which I may do, I presume, as this is a confidential document and not for publication, — I may say that I should be a large gainer by it as I hold shares in 10 Canadian companies which, I imagine,



would come under the system.

But it is only fair for those who are shareholders to consider whether the proposal would be as welcome to the interests of other classes as it would be to us.

Export bounties have always been regarded with suspicion by economists and statesmen: they have only been used, as by Germany, on a limited scale. The result is generally viewed, even on this scale, as at least doubtful and perhaps detrimental: the German bounty on manufactured sugar and its aid to the British manufacture of secondary products has been too often quoted to need elaboration.

But so far as I know, no country anywhere at any time has ever undertaken to give an export bounty to all its manufacturers



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, present and to be, on anything and everything  
where their costs are higher than those  
abroad.

Undoubtedly the results anticipated in the  
Circular you were good enough to send me  
would be partly achieved: a greater proportion  
of Canadians, even than now, would be  
drawn into the manufacturing centres. The  
farmers would find it even harder than  
now to obtain labour at a price which  
they could pay out the receipts of their  
produce: and the <sup>country</sup> labourer would find it  
to his advantage to move into the factory  
town where there would be no such limitation  
of his wages, a movable proportion of which  
would be paid out of proceeds of taxation.

But it is gravely to be doubted whether they



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in Canada we need any further migration to the cities. The proportion of urban to rural population in Canada since Confederation has steadily risen. It might easily be held that we have at present, in a country of open resources such as ours, far too many people engaged in urban pursuits; far too few extending our claim on the forests the prairie and the mine. It might be argued that <sup>our</sup> future still lies out of doors.

Here again the interests of many persons and many institutions such as ~~our~~ <sup>our own</sup> University are heavily favoured by further crowding into the cities and further upbuilding of manufactures. Experience seems to show that the manufacturing class, in regard to



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all public enterprises of an educational and philanthropic character are larger-minded and more generous than the farmers. They give and they give nobly; the history of our own college is a standing proof of it. The "inspired millionaire", who hands back to the -distant for community for nobler purposes than private expenditure, the great part of the fortune that he has made, has been an outstanding feature of the social development of this continent.

But I repeat that in the present case it is necessary to consider not only the social advantages but also the financial burden involved. This plan means an increase of taxes; the larger



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its operation the heavier the tax involved :  
the wider its scope the greater the annual  
bill to the taxpayer's the moment its operation  
is large enough to count, its cost is large  
enough to feel.

We are now heavily taxed : the difference  
between the income here and in the united  
states is palpable and obvious . We are heavily  
in debt : more heavily each year : by  
calling part of our debt "railway debt"  
, payable to Sir Henry Thornton, we effected a  
childish pretence of financial progress . I  
imagine that some people are deceived by it :  
I doubt if any bankers are .

But the greatest objection to the proposed  
plan of paying the manufacturer a bonus  
on his foreign sales and taking it out of taxes, still



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remains. It lies in its political effect. If driven home, this demand for further aid by the manufacturers will excite again the latent hostility to the idea of protection, which in Canada, smoulders but never goes out.

I am one of those who believe in the validity of protection in our home market, in Canada, here and now, not for every country, then, now and always. I think protection, within its limits and apart from the exaggerated stages when it overleaps all difference of cost and becomes little else than legalized plunder, a sound doctrine and a wise policy.

But in Canada the principle of protection has never been accepted by all the people all over the country. It has



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never been regarded, as it is in the United States, by all classes and all sections as a part of the national program of progress. Its victories have always been sectional: its triumphs never complete; and its hold upon the country dubious and unstable. As a protectionist I regret this fact; but I do not deny it. Any one conversant with the subject understands the difference between the universal acceptance of free trade that existed in England in three generations, the universal acceptance of protection that has existed for at least one generation in ~~Canada~~ the United States, and, on the other hand, the situation in Canada where whole classes and sections of the country are still in open hostility to the tariff policy of the <sup>dominion</sup> ~~country~~.



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In my opinion the proposal to give  
love and above the protection of his home  
market, a bonus to the Canadian man-  
ufacturer <sup>such</sup> ~~so~~ as to make the foreign  
consumer buy his goods, — would excite  
such a resentment in the un-protected  
classes of the community, that the  
whole principle of protection would be  
thrown again into the furnace of public  
opinion. There would be a real danger  
that protection itself would have to fight  
for its life! And that it might not succeed  
in the struggle.

If I were a Canadian manufacturer  
I should think twice before being willing to  
accept the very obvious, immediate  
advantages offered by this plan. Unless I



12  
felt that I could realize on it so rapid  
a fortune as to make me indifferent to  
the future of the business, I should fear to  
accept the immediate benefit because of the  
possible later consequences. I should  
rather endeavour in every possible way  
to gain for the protective system the  
wide national support which it ought to  
enjoy; ~~to~~ to keep it within such proper  
dimensions as to associate it with the  
welfare of all classes and not of one;  
and direct my efforts to the lightening  
of taxation, the payment of public  
debt and the reduction of the cost  
of living. These are the things which  
will attract the immigration admitted



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ly us all ~~as~~ essential to our development.  
It is the lack of them that keeps  
threatening to bring us to a full stop.

There is no doubt that the  
proposal of any Canadian government to  
adopt this system of further subsidy to  
manufactures, would precipitate wide  
opposition, and force a general appeal  
to the country on the whole question of  
protection; and there is no doubt that  
in such a case a great many people  
of influence and power, and a great  
many people who have neither, until  
they are added up in hundreds of  
thousands, — would <sup>be</sup> lost to the cause of  
protection & numbered among its opponents. ©



September  
Fourth  
1930.

Dr. Stephen Leacock,  
The Old Brewery Bay,  
Orillia, Ont.

My dear Stephen:

Thank you very much for sending me the book on "Economic Prosperity in the British Empire". I shall take it away with me when I accompany the Chancellor on his trip, beginning on Saturday. I should thus well fortify myself to stand up to the Holts and other Economists who generally make up the President's party.

Glad to hear that you are better, and I am looking forward to seeing you in October.

Ever yours faithfully,



THE OLD BREWERY BAY  
ORILLIA

Sir Arthur Currie

Feb 16. 29

M S 111

My dear Sir Arthur -

I send herewith a report on the work in the department of Economics, but before I discuss it, let me first say how glad I am that you are back again: René du Roure who is up here with me tells me that you are looking very well, and "right on the job" again.

I have made the report as short as possible as you know all about Gopth leaving + Forsey being appointed etc.

The great difficulty is with Fartherp, but I gather from his letter that you know more about his condition than I do as you have seen him.



(2)

THE OLD BREWERY BAY  
ORILLIA

Our other difficulty is with the  
Macmillans printing of our monographs  
as it is hard to get the advertisements  
I may get you to talk me to  
persuade the Bank & Montreal  
& The Canadian National Rail-  
ways to give us a lift.

I shall look forward to  
seeing you again at the end  
of the month.

V. sincerely  
Stephen Leacock

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Sep 16 .1929

MEMORANDUM

FROM

PROFESSOR LEACOCK

UN

THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS & POLITICAL SC.

1928-29

+

1929-30



from  
Professor Leacock

Sept 16 1929

THE OLD BREWERY BAY  
ORILLIA

Memorandum on the Department  
of  
Economics and Political Science

1928-1929.

The work of the session followed along the same lines as for several previous years. The outstanding feature was the very great expansion of the graduate work, there being some 15 students in the advanced seminar classes.

Individual consultation with these graduate students entailed a very heavy burden of new work, which fell principally upon Dr Hemmeon. As the graduate work is of great importance and has met with great success, I wish to do all



THE OLD BREWERY BAY  
ORILLIA

that is possible to keep it up, and would like therefore to relieve Dr Hemmen of work with <sup>the</sup> large elementary classes. This is the more desirable for the new session (1929-1930) as Dr Hemmen has been ill most of the summer. I can however set him free by new combinations of work, with no addition to the staff or to the budget.

9. In connection with the graduate <sup>work</sup> we are carrying forward our publication of monographs of Canadian national problems, in conjunction with the Macmillan Co. Without these our work cannot continue on a successful basis.



## THE OLD BREWERY BAY

ORILLIA

I will make later a separate report on the question of the monographs. The Macmillans undertake to publish them provided that we can help them to get a certain amount of (sympathetic) advertising. It is hard to get this.

During the year Mr Goforth was ill & absent from work for some six weeks, and Professor Farthing for half the year. We carried on their work by rearranging classes as best we could with no outside help beyond about \$80 a month in tutorial fees over & above the regular salaries.

Mr Goforth resigned his position at the



THE OLD BREWERY BAY  
ORILLIA

close of the year, to our great regret.

Mr John Culliton was promoted from being a sessional lecturer to a position as Assistant professor, and Mr Eugene Forsey was appointed to the staff as lecturer.

I regret to say that Mr Farthing has just written to tell me that he is entirely unable to work for an indefinite period. We cannot manage his classes without help: but I think we could carry on, in a more or less satisfactory way, with tutorial work, done by graduate students, instead of engaging a locum tenens. If we spent about 100 a month, say about 800 for the session, in this way, it would be possible for Mr Farthing



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ORILLIA

while ill, to retain nearly all his salary without any addition to the budget as it was settled last spring.

Our department, unlike many much smaller sections of the university, receives no stenographic or secretarial help and I am therefore unable to have this copied into type, - for which I apologise.

Stephen Leacock



8th February, 1930.

Dr. Stephen Leacock,  
Department of Economics,  
Faculty of Arts.

Dear Leacock,

The "No.4." on your memorandum,  
I think, was your promise to let me have a  
report of professors teaching controversial  
subjects. You remember I told you of Culliton  
and the student who wrote his father that the  
professors of economics were all "sold on  
government ownership of railways.

Ever yours faithfully,

Principal.



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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND  
POLITICAL SCIENCE

March 19

My dear Sir Arthur

Herewith copies of The 4  
monographs just issued by  
The Macmillans for McGill.

These cost the college  
\$75<sup>00</sup> each & in return we  
get 50 copies each; we  
circulated 500 graduate  
school circulars by means of  
them: we get also in exchange  
scientific magazines published  
by Harvard, Kiel, London &  
other universities . . . . .

Very sincerely

Sutherland Leacock



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POLITICAL SCIENCE

Feb 6 1930

Dear Mr. Prichard

To get further information on one or two matters concerning my department of which you spoke I held a meeting of the members yesterday

I In regard to Human Relations all of them would be very glad to assist in organizing it. I have also written to Yale + Chicago for light; and I have consulted my friend (+ yours) Captain Arthur Mathewson (alderman) + he is writing me suggestions for lines of work

II Mr. Farthing + whether if he leaves to replace him by extra teaching tutors or an appointment.

All agree that we can carry on for one more session so as to keep Farthing's place open another year. The department disagree with me in preferring (all of them) an appointment of a teacher rather than teaching tutors. I think they are wrong but of course would prefer to accept their views

III Commerce. In regard to what



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can be done to improve the  
work in commerce with D Hemmings  
+ D Day would like a chance to  
see you personally.

IV. I hope No 4 - - -

V. sinant

Stephen Leacock

Sir Arthur Curie  
175 ill



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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND  
POLITICAL SCIENCE

May 18 1927

Sir Arthur Currie  
McGill University

Dear Mr Principal

In the light of our conversation  
of last week, I understand that

you are kind enough to allow us

to add the name of Mr John

M'Callister (B.A. Sask. M.A. McGill) to

the staff of our department as a  
seasonal lecturer

In reorganising our work on  
this basis we assign some <sup>12 to 14</sup> ~~4~~ hours

(as shown in the enclosed schedule) to  
M'Callister. We are all very appreciative of the  
help thus given to us.

Very sincerely  
Stephen Leacock

This enables us among other things to undertake 3 hours a week all read of Pacific Economics; S.L.



Mr Culliton's Programme  
1927-1928

Econ 1 --- Section of the Class --- 3 hrs

" 3 " " " " " 3 "

" 8+9 } In conjunction with 3 to 5  
10+11 } Dr Hemmer HW ~~35~~ hrs  
leaves R."

" 23 (Under Mr Culliton) 3 hrs  
(alone)

(12) ~~14~~  
(14)



McGILL UNIVERSITY  
MONTREAL

Mar. 17. 1927.

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND  
POLITICAL SCIENCE

Sir Arthur Currie  
McGill

Dear Mr Principal

I want to ask if I may keep on John Culliton, now a teaching fellow, as a sessional lecturer for two more sessions (1927-28, 1928-29). After that Eugene Forsey will be available to come on the staff as already discussed by you and me in conversation.

I send you herewith a broadside sheet of the work of the department. The second year, in spite of the relief given, is still crowded. The honour classes of the third & fourth year are still hardly joined. This makes some of the classes too large for proper advanced teaching. For example Economics 10, an advanced & difficult course, has 46 students.

I would like to give Culliton \$1500 a session & pay it between Oct 1 & May 1. ☉ If I have to, I will drop one of <sup>the</sup> two graduate fellows granted last year as an annual feature.

If Gopwith goes to China I can manage without him if I have Culliton & two graduate fellows. I enclose tables to show the changes in the budget. They are nothing.

Very sincerely  
Stephen Leacock



Sir Arthur Currie

May 26. 30

McGill University

THE OLD BREWERY BAY  
ORILLIA

My dear Sir Arthur

I appreciated very deeply your kind letter: I am quite sure that I was wise in coming up here as I am getting well so fast up here that already I am back to something very close to normal. What-  
-ever was wrong with me ~~was~~ is going away. . . . . Up here I am able to get such absolute rest with no noise in the street & do just as much or as little as I like. . . .  
Already I am looking forward to next year. I have only five more sessions at McGill and I intend



THE OLD BREWERY BAY

ORILLIA,

raise hell in Canadian economics  
during the short time left to use...

From the lists Hemmison sends  
me I see that all the winners  
of graduate scholarships in economics  
in M.S.I.I are Jews, except one,  
who is a Jewess. . . . This is  
a serious drawback: They are  
clever fellows & excellent students  
but we can't get jobs for them  
because the railways, banks &  
commercial houses don't want  
them. . . My book on The Economic  
Integration of the British Empire will  
be out in a fortnight and I will



THE OLD BREWERY BAY

ORILLIA

Send you the first copy off the  
press... Do find time, if you  
can, to read parts of it and  
if you are not too busy I'd

appreciate very much if you could  
write & tell me what you think of  
the general idea of it....

Again let me tell you how  
much I appreciate your kindness &  
solicitude, & how glad I am  
that you didn't catch me & put  
me by force in a hospital  
with my tubercles

Slippen Leacock



February 23, 1927.

Dr. Stephen Leacock,  
Faculty of Arts,  
McGill University.

Dear Professor Leacock:-

I have just handed to Mr. Culliton the manuscript you sent me. We had a brief chat and I was sorry I had not more time to discuss the matter with him. I am afraid that one impression he is likely to leave is that the troubles which the farmers experience would disappear if the banks loaned more freely to them and at a lower rate of interest. That is not a fair conclusion, in view of the experience of the banks in loans to farmers in the three prairie provinces; on these loans the banks have lost money and I dare say if they had loaned them twice as much at a lower rate of interest, the loss would have been proportionally greater.

I have drawn Mr. Culliton's attention to the study of agricultural problems in the United States which is being made by the National Industrial Conference Board Incorporated, 237 Park Avenue, New York. I have read some of their literature with great interest.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.



McGILL UNIVERSITY

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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND  
POLITICAL SCIENCE

February 21st, 1927

Sir Arthur Currie,  
McGill University,  
Montreal.

Dear Mr. Principal,

I thought you might be interested  
in looking over the enclosed. I know that it is a  
subject about which you have thought deeply.

I am sending this to the Gazette,  
and it occurred to me that perhaps you might have some  
valuable suggestions or some further information to  
offer in this connection.

Very sincerely,

*Stephen Leacock*



February 17, 1926.

Stephen Butler Leacock, B.A., Ph.D., Litt. D., LL.D., F.R.S.C., Chairman of the Department of Economics and Political Science of McGill University, has been one of the outstanding figures of Canada for many years. Born in Hampshire, England, he came to Canada early in life and as a student at Upper Canada College and later at the University of Toronto imbibed the spirit of sturdy Canadianism which is so apparent in all his writings. Soon after graduating from the University he was appointed to the Staff of Upper Canada College and there and later at McGill he devoted himself to the study of politics and economics. Today he is an authority whose words are listened to with attention and who has built up around him at McGill a capable and well balanced staff.

Dr. Leacock's interest in Canada and her affairs has been evidenced over and over again. In 1917 and 1918 he made a tour of the Empire, lecturing on imperial organization under the auspices of the Rhodes Trust, while his works on episodes of Canadian History are well known to every student.

As an author indeed his fame has gone far beyond the bounds of Canada. His humorous works which perhaps might technically be described as satires present the most acutely drawn pictures of Canadian life, pictures which may some day take their place beside those of Aristophanes, Juvenal and Moliere. No one knows better the life of the small country town, of the rich city with its finances and its fads, of the University than does Stephen Leacock, and no one who reads what he has written with any understanding can fail to realize how healthy is his good natured ridicule.



No professor on the Staff of the University is more popular among his colleagues and his students and no one takes a keener interest in all that affects his University. But after all there is very little need to introduce Dr. Leacock to a Canadian audience and there is no doubt that his address to the Professional Institute and to the McGill Graduate Society will be more than worth hearing.



THE OLD BREWERY BAY  
ORILLIA

Aug 31 1930

My dear Sir Arthur

By this same mail I  
send you a copy of my Empire  
book. I cant expect you to  
find time to read all the  
statistics & stuff of that sort but  
I am sure you will be interested  
in looking over the book:

I am sure too that you  
will be pleased that with  
Day's book on Banking & this  
on the Empire, the department  
is keeping its end up.

With best regards

Stephen Leacock

Sir Arthur Currie

McGill University.



CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS  
HOTEL SYSTEM



THE FORT GARRY, WINNIPEG



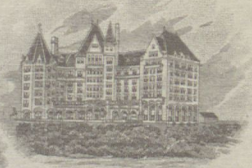
PRINCE EDWARD, BRANDON



CHATEAU LAURIER, OTTAWA



PRINCE ARTHUR, PORT ARTHUR



THE MACDONALD, EDMONTON

PICTOU LODGE  
PICTOU, NOVA SCOTIA  
HIGHLAND INN  
ALGONQUIN PARK, ONTARIO  
NIPIGON LODGE  
ORIENT BAY, ONTARIO

MINAKI LODGE  
MINAKI, ONTARIO  
GRAND BEACH HOTEL  
GRAND BEACH, MANITOBA  
JASPER PARK LODGE  
JASPER, ALBERTA

CHATEAU LAURIER

OTTAWA, ONT.

May 22. 1929.

My dear Sir Arthur

I am very glad, as we all are, to know that you are back with us: and I am sorry that I go on from here (Ottawa - Royal Economic Societies) to Oultha & shall miss seeing you on your arrival.

I am sending you by later post an extended report of the department to show what we have been doing. But please don't bother to read it till you have some leisure time, as there is nothing in it beyond our following along as we were.  
see next page



CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS  
HOTEL SYSTEM



THE FORT GARRY, WINNIPEG



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MINAKI LODGE  
MINAKI, ONTARIO  
GRAND BEACH HOTEL  
GRAND BEACH, MANITOBA  
JASPER PARK LODGE  
JASPER, ALBERTA

CHATEAU LAURIER

OTTAWA, ONT.

Only one thing I might call to your attention without delay. John Farthing has had a severe breakdown mental we all presume, & I fear he is still far from well. I kept in touch with the Bishop by letter & telephone but I did not see John as it was evidently not desired. I felt sure that you would like to know about this. When the time came to make the budget I wrote & asked the board to give Farthing the increase of \$500 to bring him up to \$3000. This as I recall it was entirely along the lines intended when he came to us, was it not. . . . But the test of the



CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS  
HOTEL SYSTEM



THE FORT GARRY, WINNIPEG



PRINCE EDWARD, BRANDON



CHATEAU LAURIER, OTTAWA



PRINCE ARTHUR, PORT ARTHUR



THE MACDONALD, EDMONTON

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NIPIGON LODGE  
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MINAKI LODGE  
MINAKI, ONTARIO  
GRAND BEACH HOTEL  
GRAND BEACH, MANITOBA  
JASPER PARK LODGE  
JASPER, ALBERTA

CHATEAU LAURIER

OTTAWA, ONT.

things I can keep till you have  
time, we had a wonderfully  
successful year.

with very best regards to Lady  
Currie & to yourself

Stephen Leacock

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10 <sup>30</sup> Friday:

Mr. Farchug (Dept. of Economics)  
(Bishop Farchug's son,  
Has been absent 7  
months on sick leave.



September 21st, 1929.

Dr. Stephen Leacock,  
The Old Brewery Bay,  
Orillia, Ont.

Dear Stephen:-

I have your note of the 16th of September, together with your memorandum on the Department of Economics and Political Science and am ready to discuss with you all matters raised therein when you return to the University.

I very much regret to learn that Dr. Hemmeon has been ill, and also Mr. Farthing and Mr. Goforth. What is the matter with the Department of Economics? Is this the inevitable result of the strange economic notions some of these men hold? While Goforth was a first-rate man in many ways I am not at all sorry that he has left the staff. I think the time had arrived when Goforth was more interested in his outside work than he was with the work of the University. No man could possibly do what he was doing outside and give faithful service to his classes.

I saw Jack Farthing and am not at all surprised to learn from you that he will not be able to return. His retention on the staff is something which will have to be seriously considered. We cannot go on paying him a full salary if there is no likelihood of his coming back soon. We must get a report on his physical condition. If he is likely to be away for some time his salary must be considerably cut down. If there is no likelihood of his return I think he should resign. We



Dr. Leacock

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will give him a fair chance for we are all fond of him. However, we will discuss these matters when you return.

I note what you say regarding the lack of stenographic assistance. In any event would you have this stenographic assistance at Old Brewery Bay during the summer.

All good wishes to you and duRoure.

Yours faithfully,



March 29th, 1928.

Dr. Stephen Leacock,  
Department of Economics,  
McGill University.

Dear Dr. Leacock:-

I have seen for the first time the accounts with reference to Monographs 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9. These disclose a total deficit of \$994.99. I am surprised and sorry that this deficit is so large. With reference to Monographs 5, 6, 7 and 8 we apparently obligated ourselves to pay \$806.99 for printing papers, the sales from which amounted to only \$87.00

I do not wish to discourage the Department of Economics in the good work it is doing in the matter of publication, but I submit that the debit and credit, as disclosed in the Garden City Press account, is poor business.

Monograph No. 9 shews a deficit of \$275.00. I wonder if it is worth it. I believe in publications and I know we have not a University press, but there is a limit to the support our funds will permit us to give. I think we must in future have a more definite understanding as to these debits and possible credits.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.





PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR:  
SIR ARTHUR W. CURRIE, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.

FROM  
THE PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR,  
MCGILL UNIVERSITY,  
MONTREAL.

March 30th, 1928.

Dear Mr. Principal:

Mr. Eayre of the Macmillan Company is coming from Toronto and will see me on Tuesday with a view to taking over the Monographs of my Department for the future. I will offer him the right to put in advertisements and, with permission, give him one advertisement (McGill Graduate School) paid for by us. This will be our only cost.

In regard to the accounts shewn to you, I am glad to say you made a mistake in reading them. The sales recorded merely meant outstanding payments not yet in, and the balance due merely meant the part of the printer's bill not yet paid. The total sales ran to more than \$600.00.

After Mr. Eayre I will ask to see you and try to settle the question, so that in future it will cost us nothing.

STEPHEN LEACOCK.



*Leacock -*

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN AND PRESIDENT

P e r s o n a l

MONTREAL February 2nd, 1925.

Dear Sir Arthur:

I enclose herewith an editorial which appeared in the St. John News on January 29th in which is a somewhat vicious attack on Professor Leacock because of certain statements he is reported to have made in an interview while in the Maritimes.

I imagine that the real occasion for the editorial was Professor Leacock's comments on the university situation in the Maritimes which, I understand, is a very controversial subject. It would perhaps have been better had he refrained from commenting on matters of such purely local concern.

In addition, his reference to the evils of over-expansion being experienced in McGill is rather unfortunate. We may all believe that the day of the smaller university is fast approaching. Undoubtedly it is in Ontario and it can be truly said that Toronto University has become now so large as to be unwieldy but the same situation does not exist here. The number of students at McGill University may conceivably remain the same as now for some years to come but the expansion



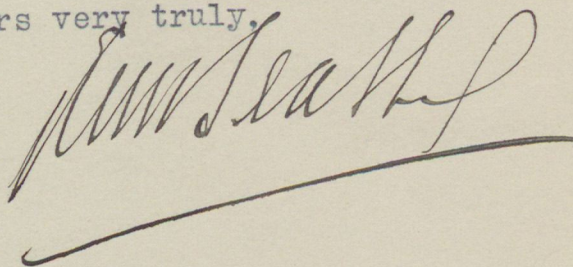
CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY  
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN AND PRESIDENT

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MONTREAL

of McGill's facilities will have to continue. There is grave danger that remarks of this kind may have an adverse public effect through being misinterpreted.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. W. Seath". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a long, horizontal stroke.

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



## ARE MCGILL'S BEST DAYS OVER?

The Canadian Press service carried a despatch from Moncton, N.B., of an interview given by Prof. Leacock of McGill last week after he had toured the Maritime provinces. Here are a few of his choice bits of wisdom:—

"I am strongly opposed to further expansion of Canadian universities." "At Montreal and Toronto I already see the folly of ever-expansion." To the friends of old McGill this must be most disconcerting. He also said that the small university can do "far better work than can a large institution."

The conclusions to be drawn from this latest Leacock spasm are that the people of this Province would be far wiser to send their sons and daughters to a small university like we have at Lennoxville than to over-expanded McGill. We have always been enthusiastic about the life and work at Bishop's College, Lennoxville, and agree that there is some sense in this conclusion. The other conclusion is that it would be utter folly to add to McGill's endowment or equipment and that millionaires and the Quebec Government must find some other outlet for zeal in higher education. It must be so for McGill suffers already from "over-expansion," according to her own Prof. Leacock. But that is not all.

While in the Maritimes Prof. Leacock has been lecturing at so much per night and has doubtless been dined and wined by hospitable people. He now offers them another pearl of wisdom, drawn from his experience with over-expanded universities, and he condemns the proposed university federation scheme down there. What his recent hosts will think of this advice gratis from their guest from McGill we can almost guess. We have never accused Prof. Leacock of being an authority in matters of good form and this interference with Maritime educational problems on his part advertises his innocence of the ordinary proprieties of polite society. When he ventures to congratulate two Maritime institutions for their stand on this matter he simply becomes impertinent. Because McGill is failing or falling down in its work is no reason why the proposed Maritime university should not succeed. It might even get professors who attended to their work instead of becoming professional buffoons running all over the land and doing the stunts of a lone end man escaped from a minstrel troupe at so much a stunt.

On this latter point we strongly suspect Prof. Leacock has a sinister motive that is not confessed. Does he dread the proposed university federation in the Maritimes because it keeps in the East the clever students that now come to McGill from down there by the sea? Is his economic soul stirred by the prospective absence from McGill's coffers of the considerable fees paid by such students? We wonder. A glance at almost any graduation list at McGill shows that her prize men and honour men come largely from the East and we have a haunting suspicion that the wily Stephen has conjured up this "over-expansion" bogey to frighten the Maritimes and save McGill the loss that the projected central university would entail. Unhappily his wit is not so nimble as it might be. As he springs this sensation we can almost see him leading the audience in laughter, as he is wont to do when delivering his pearls (or clods) of merriment, and so his published interview leaves us guessing. There must be something to explain his execrably bad taste. He cannot have interfered in the educational situation down East just to earn the title of a bounder. He cannot have realized the blow he was dealing to McGill by exposing her weakness and warning against further support of her appeals. Perhaps he is just trying to be funny and fool the people, but this time he has succeeded even the wide bounds of his accustomed horse-play, and perhaps we should apologize to our readers for paying so much attention to his spasm.

St John  
 News  
 Jan 29/25