

McGILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

October 28th. 1926.

Dear Sir Arthur,

I beg to submit the following reasons for wishing not to countenance West's World Progress as a book to be used for matriculation into McGill University:-

(I) The book was neither planned nor constructed ab ini-
tio as a history of world progress. On the contrary, it is composed mainly of extracts, paraphrased and condensed, from the nine or ten other school histories that the same author had written previously. The piecing together and the condensation have been executed in a slipshod manner, so that in places the sequence of the narrative almost disappears, whilst at the same time paragraphs have been abbreviated to a point where their outline is blurred and their meaning left vague, to the extent of destroying altogether their instructional value. As a whole, then, and in its parts, the very way in which the book was compiled destroys its clearness and its unity. In other words, the work shows every trace of being old material, written originally for another purpose, and now rather carelessly re-arranged and thrown together under a new title in order to capture a market.

McGILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

(2)

(II) Here and there, throughout the book, are errors in fact,- (one tabulation reveals 26 patent mistakes within 7 pages),- also misleading statements, wrongly coloured qualifications of men and events, and other inaccuracies,- to say nothing of exhibitions of prejudice,- which make the work a lamentable example of a very inferior quality of scholarship.

(III) The book as a whole is pitched in a false key that leads to a mischievous travesty of history. It is written to bear out the author's opinion,- (held in common with the agrarian socialists of the State of Minnesota/with whom he appears to have been associated, and tinged with the Marxian view of class war),- that history betrays one long and deliberate oppression of the poor and the working classes at the hands of the rich and powerful. Often this theme recurs, usually accompanied by expressions of contempt and depreciation of persons in authority. This intemperate advocacy and championing of all that is radical, popular and demagogic, in its total effect can lead to but one result, namely, the preparation of pupils' minds for further radical ideas that may take a dangerous trend. Personally I am not here challenging West's social theories and beliefs; but I do think that a book so obviously

McGILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

(3)

biased in one direction, and so strongly indoctrinated with a one-sided view about social oppression and injustice, is scarcely a safe or fit book to give to teachers or to pupils as an authoritative history text.

(IV) The book runs to 669 pages, not including the plates, which are insertions and which generally speaking are well selected and well printed. Of the space covered by the 669 pages a considerable fraction is made up of pictures and lists of library references, bringing the actual reading matter to within 600 pages. This small total does service nominally for two years of school study, - i.e. grades X and XI, - allowing roughly 300 pages for each. But in Grade XI the provincial authorities have struck out for examination purposes about one half the number of chapters. As a consequence grade XI in its matriculation requirements is held accountable for about 150 pages only of history text. This, apart from the quality of the book itself, is a reason why the Department of History feels that it ought not to countenance as a college entrance requirement a year of work which in quantity falls to such a low minimum.

Very truly yours



Sir Arthur Currie

Principal, McGill University.

Please
Address reply to
THE WARDEN.

THE WARDEN'S LODGINGS,
NEW COLLEGE,
OXFORD.

October 21st, 1933.

My dear Principal,

I am much obliged to you for your full and considerate reply to our invitation to McGill University to take a part in the great History of Parliament, which is being planned out on this side of the water. I am, of course, sorry that the University feels itself unable to co-operate, but your reasons are so cogent that I am sure nobody interested in the project here will feel that you have any other course open to you at the moment but to decline. I do not know how far the Editors may find it possible to postpone the section of the History which was hypothetically allotted to McGill in the hope that at some future date you may be able to co-operate, but I am sure that, if possible, this would be their desire.

Yours sincerely,

H C L Nixon

The Principal,
McGill University,
Montreal, Canada.

To Dean MacKay -

Please note and return.

D. McM.

In regard to the proposal for McGill's coöperation in a
history of the English Parliament.

The following difficulties might, I think, be put forward in a
reply to Mr. Fisher's letter -

(a) Under present conditions it would seem almost impossible for
McGill to provide any financial assistance in the compiling of a section of such
a work.

(b) With the depleted staff of the Department of History there is really
little time for any of the professors to embark upon work which is outside their
own particular fields of research.

(c) The material for such work is not available at McGill nor indeed
in Canada. It would undoubtedly be necessary to spend a very considerable time
in England in order to carry out a satisfactory piece of research ^{or of} compilation.
As things are at present it would be difficult to subsidise students and so enable
them to reside in England for the requisite period.

(d) Finally, it is very doubtful if a student born in Canada and who
has lived all his life in Canada would have the requisite background for a piece
of research which is bound up so intimately with English life and English
associations.

E. J. Adams

October 3, 1933.



The Hon. and Rev. H. F. Cody, D.D., LL.D.
President

October 18, 1933

Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G.,
Principal, McGill University,
Montreal.

My dear Sir Arthur:

general file

I have just had a talk with Professor Chester Martin, head of our department of history, on the subject of Mr. Fisher's projected "History of the Parliaments of Great Britain and Ireland". I have given him the copy of your reply to Mr. Fisher. As a matter of fact Professor Martin has received no communication whatever on the subject from either Mr. Fisher or Mr. Buchan, so that we are entirely in the dark as to what definite proposition is before us. Professor Martin tells me that we cannot at the moment finance adequately similar researches into the history of our own Parliaments in Canada. It would be quite impossible under present circumstances to finance the necessary expense involved in carrying out such an undertaking as Mr. Fisher has suggested to you.

Professor Shotwell's proposal about research into American and Canadian relations is definite and practicable. I understand that it is rapidly assuming form.

In regard to Mr. Fisher's proposal we would be very glad to have from him further information on both the financial and academic sides before we could make any definite decision.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

H. F. Cody
President.

President's Office.



October 16, 1933

General Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G.,
McGill University,
Montreal, Q.

*History
general*

My dear Sir Arthur:

I have not yet been able to see Professor Martin in regard to Mr. Fisher's proposal. He has been having trouble with his teeth and has not been available. I shall see him as soon as possible.

Our Engineering Society, one of the largest and most vigorous of such organisations among the undergraduates, is very anxious to have you address them on the evening of December 5th. I very gladly support their invitation, and hope that you may be able to come. You would have an enthusiastic audience of five or six hundred men and the whole staff in Applied Science.

Looking forward to the pleasure of having you with us on the 11th November, Believe me,

Faithfully yours,

A. J. Gody

President.

October 10,
1933

Rt. Hon. H. A. L. Fisher, F.R.S., M.P.,
Warden of New College,
Oxford.

My dear Warden,

I have not until this moment been able to give you a definite answer as to whether McGill University could take part in the writing of the History of Parliament, as you so kindly suggest in your letter to me of the 28th of July last.

I have now talked the whole matter over with the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science and with the members of the McGill Department of History, and I am sorry to have to say that McGill University, under present conditions, is unable to be responsible either on the side of research and scholarship or on the side of finance for the period 1832-1864. We appreciate very greatly the honour done us by the promoters of this historical enterprise, and had things been different we should have willingly and gladly taken a part in the work, but for the following reasons it is quite out of the question that we should do so:

(a) Under our present financial difficulties it would seem quite impossible for McGill to provide any financial assistance in the compiling of a section of such a work. Apparently the printing and publishing of a sizable two-volume work would be involved. The editorial preparation could not be done in Montreal, for the necessary material is not available here. It could only be undertaken in London, involving considerable expense to the University and the time of one member of our Department.

(b) But the main reason why it is impossible for McGill to take part in the work is that we have been unable to fill the vacancy created by the death of the late Professor W.T. Waugh, Chairman of the Department of History, and with a depleted staff there is really little time for any of the professors to embark upon work which is outside their own particular fields of research. It would be necessary to subsidize students and so enable them to reside in England for the requisite period, but on the other hand it is very doubtful if a student born in Canada and who has lived all his life in Canada would have the requisite background for a piece of research which is bound up so intimately with English life and English associations.

If the project were postponed until some future time when the financial horizon were brighter, McGill University would gladly accept a part, but it now appears that for some years to come we shall be obliged to curtail even the most legitimate research in all the Departments, when it not subsidized by private funds; that is to say, the general funds of the University have been so depleted during the past few years that the strictest economies are enforced upon us.

With all kind wishes,

I am,

Ever yours faithfully,

Principal

October 10,
1933.

My dear President,

With further reference to the project of a History of Parliament, in which Professor H.A.L. Fisher proposes that Canadian Universities should have a part, I am enclosing copy of my reply, in which I have said that because of the loss of the late Professor W.T.Waugh and our being left with a depleted Department of History, and because we cannot afford the expense involved, we are unable to do as he suggests.

Have you heard any more about it? I should be interested to hear whether Toronto decides to go on on the scheme or not.

With all kind wishes,

I am,

Ever yours faithfully,

Principal.

Hon. and Rev. H.J.Cody, D.D., LL.D.,
President, Toronto University,
Toronto, Ontario.

President's Office.

The Hon. and Rev. W. J. Cody, D.D., LL.D.
President



August 31, 1933

My dear Sir Arthur:

As far as I know we have not yet received any intimation from Mr. Buchan about the proposed History of the Parliaments of Great Britain and Ireland. At first sight I would agree with your impression of the scheme. It would be very difficult for members of our history staff to undertake such a share in the work without actually going to England. All our history people are away at the moment, but as soon as Chester Martin returns I shall discuss the matter with him and then write to you.

I hope you have had a good summer and are feeling in the best of health. I had a most interesting trip to England and to Italy. With warmest personal regards, I am,

Faithfully yours,

W. J. Cody

President.

Principal Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G.,
McGill University,
Montreal, Q.

August 29,
1933

My dear President Cody,

I am in receipt of a letter from H.A.L.Fisher, Warden of New College, to which was attached a summary of the scheme to write a History of the Parliaments of Great Britain and Ireland. From Fisher's letter, I gather that the sponsors of this scheme hope that Toronto and McGill between them may undertake the necessary work for the period 1832-64. He also tells me that John Buchan has undertaken to write to Toronto about the matter.

Frankly, I have not been very much impressed by this scheme, especially at the present time, when our History staff has been weakened by the loss of Waugh, whom I have not been able to replace yet. I should say that most of the research work would have to be done in the Old Country. Some member of the History staff might be disposed to undertake it if he were allowed his travelling and living expenses to spend two or three months in England each year. I have not been able as yet to take it up with the History Department, as none of the members are here at present.

Him Shotwell of New York spent last evening with me, and told me of his ability to go ahead at once with his study of Canadian-American relations, the historical part of which, he said, would be supervised by Chester Martin.

With all kind wishes,

I am,
Ever yours faithfully,

Hon. and Rev. H.J.Cody, LL.D., D.D.,
President, Toronto University.

Principal.

MCGILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

October 3rd., 1933.

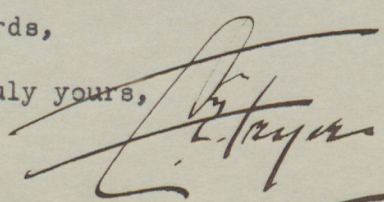
Dear Sir Arthur,-

The question of the University, through our Department, undertaking a section of the proposed co-operative History of the British Parliament, has already been, so Adair tells me, the subject of a lengthy correspondence between himself and Basil Williams. I have not seen the correspondence; but I gather from Adair that he feels involved in the plan to the point of virtually being commissioned to lay before you the views and wishes of the English editors and promoters of the scheme. For that reason I thought it would save time if I asked Adair to return to you the letters from H. A. L. Fisher and others whenever he has his interview with you on the subject.

I may say that the plan seems to impose upon the University the expense of undertaking the ~~the~~ printing and publishing of a sizable two volume work. The editorial preparation could not be done in Montreal, for the necessary material is not available here. It could be undertaken only in London, England,- a procedure which would further involve the funds of the university as well as the time of one member of our Department (between one and two years) to an extent which I don't think we could possibly consider.

With kind regards,

Very truly yours,


C. E. FRYER.

Inter-department Correspondence



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

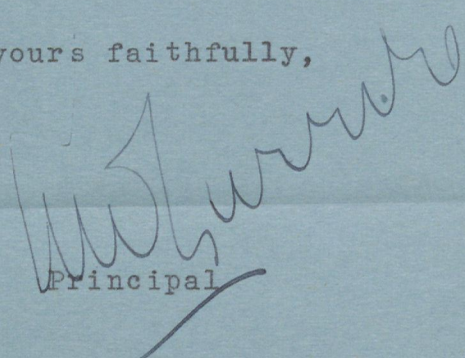
FROM
THE PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR,
MCGILL UNIVERSITY,
MONTREAL.

Sept. 30,
1933

Dear Dr. Fryer,

I enclose correspondence with Professor H.A.L. Fisher regarding a History of Parliament, in the writing of which they would like McGill to have a share. You might please discuss this matter with the Dean and the members of the History Department and then see me about the middle of the month.

Ever yours faithfully,


Principal

Dr. C.E. Fryer,

Chairman of the Department of History

Copy.

The Warden's Lodgings,
New College, Oxford.

28.7.33

My dear Sir Arthur Currie,

There is a great desire on the part of the promoters of this great historical enterprise which is patronised by some leading Parliamentary people that the chief Universities of the Dominions should bear their part both on the side of scholarship and on the side of finance, and in Canada notably the Universities of McGill and Toronto.

My friend John Buchan has undertaken to write to Toronto and I have been asked to enquire of you whether McGill might be willing to undertake both on the side of research and on the side of finance to be responsible for the period between 1832 and 1864.

I have written to Professor Basil Williams who knows McGill so well to bespeak his assistance with your historical professors. There is, of course, no immediate hurry about the decision. The matter will, of course, have to be gone into carefully. The general Editor who will be responsible is

The Right Honourable
Josiah Wedgewood, M.P.,
House of Commons,
S.W.1.

good wishes

With very kind regards and all

Yours very sincerely

H.A.L. Fisher

HISTORY OF PARLIAMENT.

SUMMARY OF SCHEME.

The idea is to provide a record of past Parliaments in Great Britain and Ireland which shall give the names and lives of those who formed Parliament. The working and Acts of each Parliament will be summarised, so that public opinion in each age may be understood, and so that the influence of individual and party on the institution can be seen. And the lists will contain all those who sat in either House with the offices they held. But the main object is to have the identity of the Members determined so that they can be classified as to age, experience of Parliament and office, interest, family connections and party. By this means the action and reaction of governed on governors, of executive on democracy, can be traced from age to age. No historian has dealt or can deal with the composition of Parliament, or of any single Parliament in the present state of our knowledge; and the knowledge of each Parliament reveals human society at that date.

The object of the work is historical, sociological, political, even genealogical, but mainly to examine and explain the development of those democratic institutions which must remain our chief contribution to liberal ideas and human progress.

To carry out such a work is beyond the powers of any one historian, beyond the means of any one publisher. Each historian must deal with his own period, and the co-operation of learned endowments in both Great Britain, the Dominions and America must be obtained, in default of Government aid, to finance and supervise the work. It is hoped that H.M. Government will see to printing, publication and issue, once the material is compiled and edited. It is hoped that the Dominions and America will take on responsibility for certain periods.

It is proposed to break up the history into seventeen periods and to include parallel studies of Scottish and Irish Parliaments before the Union, and to close the work at the end of the Great War. These periods are roughly as follows: 1240-1326, 1327-1360, 1361-1399, 1399-1437, 1439-1504, 1510-1558, 1559-1601, 1603-1639, 1640-1660, 1661-1686, 1688-1714, 1714-1760, 1761-1802, 1802-1831, 1832-1864, 1865-1892, 1892-1918.

While the general lines of what each historian is to record will be indicated, each will be allowed latitude, within generous limits of space, to take his own line in his commentaries and in such expansions and excursions as Appendices permit.

At least two volumes will be required for each period. The first will contain the general commentary on and summary of the period. This will be followed by a list of each Parliament in turn, prefaced by the commentary on and summary of that Parliament, and by a statement of its methods and operations. The second volume, providing in fact the raw material for the first, will contain biographical notes on all the members of that period. The lists themselves will give, beside the name, some slight indication of office, interest, party or identity as well as the usual stars or asterisks to distinguish old from new members. By-elections will follow the general election list, and will be arranged in Chronological order. Polls and contests will be shown probably in footnotes to the Lists.

In each period special attention will be paid to the nature, distribution and growth of constituencies, and the varying methods of election, payment and control—to the relations between elected and electors as well as the relations between elected and the Crown or Executive. The sequence, consequence and precedence of the King's Ministers and their use of an influence in either House will also obtain special attention, as well as the actual working of the parliamentary machine. But the historian of each period will know well what ever-changing feature will call for especial attention in a work which breaks ground so new that only general principles can be laid down.

THE WARDEN'S LODGINGS,

NEW COLLEGE, OXFORD.

28.7.33

My dear Sir Arthur Llewellyn

There is a great desire
on the part of the founders
of this great historical
college which is
patronized by our leading
Parliamentary people that
the chief University of
the Dominion should bear
their part both in the

of scholarship and on the
side of finance, and in
Canada, notably the
Universities of Mc Gill and
Toronto.

My friend John Buchanan
has undertaken to write to
Toronto and I have been asked
to enquire of you whether

Mr. Gile might be willing to
undertake both on the side
of research and on the side of
practice to be responsible for the
period between 1832 and 1864.

I have written to Professor
Frank Williams who knows
Mr. Gile well to bespeak
his assistance with your
historical purposes. There is,

of course, no immediate

hurry about the decision. The
matter will, of course, have
to be gone into carefully.

The General Editor who
will be responsible is

The Right Hon^{or}

Justice Wigglesworth

House of Commons

Sec. 1.

With very kind regards and
all good wishes

Yours very sincerely

W. A. L. Fisher

November 21, 1932.

Dean Ira A. MacKay,
Faculty of Arts and Science.

Dear Dean MacKay,

In reply to the letter of the 19th which I have from you and the visit of Adair to Warsaw next summer, I quite agree with what you say. I think that probably \$500 was altogether too generous an allowance to Professor Waugh. Adair did not ask me for an allowance, but I took occasion to tell him that we could not promise to pay his expenses from England to Warsaw but that if possible we would make some contribution towards them. He told me that in any event he was going to spend the summer in the Old Country.

Ever yours faithfully,

Principal

November 18, 1932.

Professor E.R. Adair,
Department of History,
McGill University.

Dear Professor Adair,

I have your note of the 10th with reference to the invitation you have received to read a paper before one of the sections of the International Conference of Historians to be held at Warsaw next summer. I am glad that you have accepted and that you will appear there as a representative of McGill. If there be anything in the nature of credentials will you kindly let me know. Before you leave on your vacation next spring I shall see what can be done by way of a contribution towards your expenses.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.



MCGILL UNIVERSITY

Sir Arthur Currie, 2.

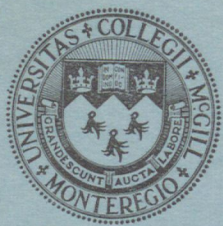
university faculties to become known to their confreres in other universities, and the more pushful younger members of the universities, therefore, and especially those who have personal friends on the programme committee, are often very unfairly promoted in this way.

Yours very truly,

Ira A. MacKay

Dean

Encl.



MCGILL UNIVERSITY

November 19, 1932.

Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G.,
Principal,
McGill University.

My dear Principal,

I am returning herewith Professor Adair's letter to you dated the 16th instant, and I need hardly say that I naturally have no objection to having Professor Adair attend the International Conference of Historians at Warsaw. I may mention, however, that I think the special grant of \$500 which we made to Professor Waugh when he attended the meeting at Oslo was quite too generous. His expenses going from England to Oslo were not great and we, therefore, really paid all or perhaps more than all of his personal travelling expenses during the whole of the summer vacation. We clearly cannot be so generous now since the appropriation of this Faculty for travelling expenses for that year was \$1500 plus the special grant to Professor Waugh, whilst this year we have cut these appropriations down to \$800. I am quite willing to recommend, therefore, that we should pay Professor Adair's full expenses from England to Warsaw and return, but I do not think that we should pay any larger amount.

The practice of financing the travelling expenses of members of the Faculty, especially during the summer months, is distinctly difficult to manage fairly. Most of these conferences, especially in the United States, are really made an occasion for permitting younger members in

MC GILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Nov. 16 1932.

Dear Sir Arthur,

The meeting of which I was speaking to you yesterday, is the International Conference of Historians held every five years. It is to be held this next summer at Warsaw and the international committee have been kind enough to invite me to read a paper before one of the sections, an invitation which I have accepted. You may remember that the first meeting was at Oslo, at which the late Prof. Waugh and myself were present as representatives of McGill.

Yours sincerely,

To Dean Mackay. E. P. Adams
War has seen me
about this. I don't suppose you have
any objection. What do you say?
18/11/32
E. P. Adams

McGILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL

McGILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL

Situation occurs next year - when
present doctor's could not be expected
to continue. So I will leave
the matter until I hear further from
him

Yours sincerely

E. R. Adams

MCGILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Conf. 1P. C 933

noted
Arthur
History
Adair

Dear Sir Arthur,

In regard to the possibility
of the Gies assisting in the publication of the
Annual Report of the Canadian Historical
Society about which I spoke to you last week:
I have heard from Lauchlin the secretary & he
says that the cost of printing should not be more
than \$300. He is at present trying to raise
that sum by private donations but he is extremely
grateful for the suggestion that the Gies might
under certain circumstances offer assistance.
He asks, however, that the matter be at
present kept for a little time in abeyance -
in other words I think he would rather
save the Gies's aid in case the same



MCGILL UNIVERSITY

February 24, 1933.

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

Dear Sir Arthur:

I have an application from a student of Western University who holds an M.Sc. degree, and wishes to come to McGill and work towards a Ph.D. in Mediaeval History.

I understand that the present members of the staff are prepared to teach Canadian History, or History from the Tudor times down to the present, but that they have not got anyone specially qualified to teach Mediaeval History. You are doubtless aware of this situation, but I venture to call your attention to it as it affects the applications to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. A.S. Eve,
Dean, Graduate Faculty.