

Rideau Club,
Ottawa.

July 23. 99.

Dear Rankine,

Yours of June 30th
has remained a long time
unanswered. — W. F. Robertson
is originally a Montrealer & a
cousin, I think, of Charles, Fleet.
When Carlyle resigned his
position under the government in
B.C., Col. Baker, then minister of
Mines wrote to me about getting
a successor & after making some
inquiry I recommended Robertson,
who got the appointment. He has
had considerable experience, particularly

Choice of new
McGill Principal
Alaska Boundary

in erecting Metallurgical plants
 in the Western States & in Mexico,
 & at the time was a partner in
 a Mining-Reporting office in N.Y.
 He is still Provincial Mineralogist
 in D.C. & is I think doing very
 well. He is now hard at work
 collecting for the Paris Exhibition,
 the material to be sent here for
 Reporting, Cataloguing & incorporation
 in the general collection. I have this
 exhibition business to run & supervise
 in addition to ordinary work
 & it takes some time & worry,
 with much correspondence.
 The space accorded is very inadequate,
 being in a British Colonial separate
 building, in the Trocadero gardens
 opposite the main exhibition buildings.

Canada has to pay the cost of the erection of this building, but between the Imperial Exhibition, through which we must treat & the rules of the French Exhibition, we are very much hampered & confined. We have to accept an approved plan, cannot exceed certain heights etc. etc.

Parliament has dropped on, with no prospect of immediate cessation & I cannot get away anywhere as long as it lasts.

The U.S. is as unreasonable as ever on the boundary

question. The late inspired despatch from Washington stating that the administration has decided not to give up an inch of the "just" claims of the U.S. as laid down by themselves. — Truly it is a self sufficient notion badly in need of a good trouncing.

Yours very truly
 Geo. C.