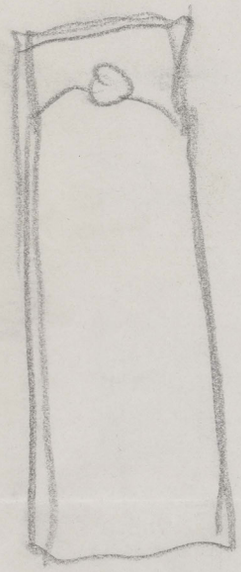
File
Letters
Unanswered

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

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

April 12th, 1930



Dr. Casey A. Wood,
Eden Hotel,
Via Ludovisi,
R o m e .

My dear Dr Casey Wood.

This morning I received your letter of March 30th. Of course, Ruttan's death was expected. He had failed very rapidly in the last six months. When I returned to Montreal last May I saw a remarkable change in him, but yet he came to Convocation and walked from the Library to the Capitol Theatre, where Convocation took place. The last University function he attended was the special Convocation at which an honorary degree was given Ramsay Macdonald. I saw him in his room shortly before he died and knew that the end was very near. He retired, as you know, the year before last under full salary for the year, and his pension allowance was then about $3500 per annum. He felt that that would not be enough to enable him to keep on his apartment and his connection with his Clubs, so I went to him and told him not to worry, that as long as he lived the University would pay him a pension at the rate of $5,000 a year. It cheered him greatly, and we were glad to do this kindness to such an old and valued servant of the University.

His brother still survives, but is in most indifferent health, also suffering from the same complaint that carried off Ruttan. His address is, Dr. A. M. Ruttan, Provost, Alberta.

Just a year ago I was in Florence, after having spent a fortnight in Rome, and I know well the delightful weather you are having. To us, too, the fine weather has come, and the golf links are open today for the first time this season. Much as I would like to, I cannot have a game, because today and yesterday we are entertaining a group of sixteen headmasters of English Public Schools who are making a tour through Canada for the purpose of visiting all the Canadian Universities with a view to deciding whether or not they wish to recommend to public school boys the advisability of taking their University training in Canada. The delegation is headed by Dr. Cyril Norwood, headmaster of Harrow, who is staying with me.

By the way, many of your old friends have died recently. I know I have written nearly a dozen letters of condolence in the last ten days. Abner Kingman and Harold Hampson were buried last Monday. Murray Williams about a week ago. Mrs. Braithwaite was buried yesterday at Hamilton.

Have you heard of Collip's wonderful discovery in our Bio-Chemistry Laboratories?

Lomer told me at the meeting of the Library Committee the other day that you were enjoying good health this winter.

The matter of an honorary degree for Mr. Blacker comes up for decision next week.

With kindest wishes to Mrs. Wood,

I am,

Yours ever,

A. S. Turner

27 August 1930.

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

Dear Sir Arthur :-

You will, I am sure, be gratified to learn that Mr. and Mrs. Blacker of Pasadena and the undersigned have further subscribed to the Zoological Funds of the University.

The Blackers will donate $ 10.000 and I$2000, payable in February 1931 and July 1931. The money is to be expended mainly for the publication of the mamuscript (annotated) Catalogue of the Vertebrate Zoological treatises in all the McGill libraries, on which the Staff and I have been engaged for the past six years, and for the acquisition of certain desirable items for the Blacker and E.S.W.Libraries.

These subscriptions will enable us to complete a scientific contribution to faunal bibliography much needed by librarians and students throughout the world, and will, I think, draw additional attention to the enviable standing occupied by McGill Libraries in University and natural history circles everywhere.

I would be much pleased if you will acknowledge this recent donation to Mr. and Mrs. Blacker,

Sincerely yours,

Casey A. Wood