

*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.

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He claimed that of course he would not have objected to a court martial, where he would have had a chance to explain himself, and claimed that action by the students was unfair, inasmuch as he had not been given a trial.

He said that his self-respect demanded that he go farther with the case. I suggested that it was rather late in the day to talk about his self-respect; that he had been associated with those who had given no cause to anyone to believe that they respected themselves, or the students or the University. I said that I could see his point of view, namely that his vanity was hurt because he had suffered an indignity without trial. But at the same time I was careful to point out that the students had been insulted most grossly and that he had taken no action to disassociate himself from those who had done it.

He asked me to advise him as to whether he should proceed with the trial. I said that was something which he himself would have to decide, though I failed to see where any good would come from such proceeding. He claimed he did not wish to bring the university into more publicity over this matter, but admitted that he was the first to give it publicity. He stated that the first person to whom he went after the incident was one of the reporters or editors of the HERALD and from there he proceeded to the Union, where he related what had happened. He said that he gave it to the press for his own protection. I pointed out that that did not smack of anything other than a desire on his part to intimate that he had been made a martyr, that nothing would have come of the matter if he himself had not given the publicity out.

He said he was not responsible for it being called a cowardly attack, neither was he responsible for saying that he was left lying out in the snow, though the fact remains that he was the one who gave the publicity out.

I read to him the declaration which he had made as a graduate in Commerce, which is as follows:-

I promise and solemnly declare that I shall with my best endeavours be careful to maintain the interests of this University and that to the best of my ability I will promote its honour and dignity.