

# The Canadian National Committee For Mental Hygiene.

*Patron: His Excellency the Lord Byng of Vimy, G.C.B., Governor-General of Canada*  
*Patroness: Her Excellency the Lady Byng of Vimy*

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April 5th., 1924.

Sir Arthur Currie,  
Principal,  
McGill University,  
Montreal, P. Q.

Dear Sir Arthur:

I am going to ask a great favor. Would you be good enough to write a letter to the Right Honourable Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada, concerning an appeal that our National Committee has made for a Federal Government grant of \$10,000?

In the Federal estimates that have been tabled, financial grants are recommended to practically every nationally organized health agency except our own. In the past, we have received government aid, and the dropping of our organization from the estimates this year was probably an oversight. I interviewed the Honourable Dr. H. S. Beland, Minister of Health, and he is in accord with our appeal. He intimated, however, that it would be well to have a few of our more representative Committee members write personally to the Prime Minister on our behalf suggesting to him that we receive recognition to the extent of \$10,000 in the Supplementary Estimates.

We are basing our appeal upon such facts as the following: - Our Committee is the only nationally organized body that is attempting to introduce measures for the prevention of insanity and for the control of feeble-mindedness and other forms of mental disorder. The success of the Committee in its efforts during the last six years has stimulated twenty-one other countries to organize along similar lines. One single form of insanity that we are attacking - Dementia Praecox - accounts for more inmates in mental hospitals than there are tuberculous patients in the sanatoria of the country, and therefore the need of mental hygiene measures. Feeble-minded prostitutes are responsible for the spread of more than twenty-five per cent of all venereal diseases, hence the necessity for the control of feeble-mindedness. Mental and nervous disorders are widespread in Canada, and these conditions cause a greater lack of national efficiency than do