

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.