

McGill Bros

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Mathematics - Physics
See notes

MEMORANDUM

February 26th, 1924.

This is a strange memorandum.

(1) It partakes of the nature of a round robin in as much as it is signed by all the members of the Physics Department.

(2) It apparently is meant to justify the remarks of Silberstein, but its third paragraph proves that Silberstein was not justified in what he said. He therefore lied about McGill. The fact that since he knew he lied and has not apologized proves that the man is not only a liar but a bounder. (See also letters from Falconer and McLennan)

(3) The incident of Silberstein is made the foundation of subsequent representations. It is a pity that such representations were based on so objectionable a foundation.

(4) These representations deal with the difference in accommodations and facilities at Toronto and at McGill. Much is made of the superior accommodation at Toronto, yet it is stated in the second last paragraph that "a good staff of men who can both teach well and do good research work will secure results superior to those attained by building and equipment, however splendid, apart from such a staff". No better facilities existed at McGill in Rutherford's time than exist to-day and any criticism of the amount and quality of research work done at McGill can not be based on the lack of facilities. There is superior accommodation at Toronto but there are more students and while more accommodation is desirable here it cannot be given in preference to other more pressing requirements of the University. The Physics Department must realize that it is the most expensive department at the University.

(5) Honour Courses: This introduces a question of general university policy and it is a pity to link it up with the Silberstein incident. The memorandum admits that students leave McGill as well prepared as

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