

*Re Promotion of
Christie*

June 7th, 1926.

Brigadier-General A. McNaughton, C.M.G., D.S.O.,
Department of National Defence,
OTTAWA.

My dear General:-

Thank you very much for
your letter of June 4th.

You have put your finger
on a very important point when you say that
the greatest menace to the successful develop-
ing of many of our University departments is
this matter of inbreeding. I have seen many
evidences since my association with McGill.

In connection with the
Department of Electrical Engineering, it would
seem as if we had an opportunity now to strengthen
the department by the addition of a man of the
type you describe, but there are other conditions
which, I think, in the end will influence us to
promote Christie. If so, we must try to add to
the staff a younger man and one who gives promise
of ability to work intelligently on research
problems. Christie has been here for over twenty
years. He is a B.A. and an M.A. of McGill and,
of course, all his experience has been here,
which enables us to form a true appreciation of
his qualifications and his character, but, on the
other hand, it tends to propagate the very faults
of which you speak. He is a successful teacher
and in fact has done almost as much teaching as
all the other members of the Department combined.
Perhaps he has been called upon to do too much