

COPY.

N.Y. March 1, 1920.

*Copies for  
Dr. Adams*

Dear Mr. Birks:-

I wish to acknowledge your letter of Feb. 27th. extending an invitation to the Chair of Religious Education of the United Theological Colleges at a salary of \$4000. I also note that I will be given the right to choose which staff I am to join.

Permit me to thank you and the Joint Board for the honor of the invitation and to assure you that I am giving it my most earnest consideration.

In my conversation and correspondence with Col. Birks and Dr. Adams it has always been assumed that the position was to be in or to lead to a definite relation to the problem of training laymen for Christian Social Leadership in the Y.M.C.A. and allied organizations. As you know my experience lies almost wholly within this field and if I did not know the point of view which the laymen on the Joint Board represent, I would hesitate about considering a position in a Seminary, even in such a progressive and liberal institution as Montreal is reputed to be.

A recent letter from Mr. Bishop made it clear that no progress had been made by the National Council on the problem of training and that no further negotiations had been carried on with Montreal.

I would be greatly obliged if you would write me again, saying in what way you anticipate relating the work to this chair to the National Y.M.C.A. and its very pressing problem of leadership.

The Y.M.C.A. and its task has been the major interest of my life for twenty years, and I had hoped that a definite arrangement would have been made with the N.C. whereby this connection would have been unbroken. Am I right in assuming that you have not abandoned this proposed relationship, but desire to proceed with it as rapidly as conditions permit?

Again thanking you for your interest and confidence in my ability to help, I am,

Yours sincerely,

Ernest M. Best.