

DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

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MONTREAL

July 28th, 1924

Sir Arthur Currie,
Principal,
McGill University.

Dear Sir Arthur:-

At the conference held this morning on the proposed New Electrical Wing I made a tentative suggestion that the Foundry and Smithy might be removed from our course at the University. If this were done it would simplify the construction of the new building and leave vacant a very valuable floor space.

There are certain parts of the work, especially in the Smithy, which are important and could not be eliminated. There is the question of the discarded apparatus. The question of the work done in the Shops for the University and also what is to be done for the instructors employed at present in the shops.

The important work referred to could be done in the new Laboratory I hope to have. The apparatus might have to be thrown away. I think we can get but little for it. The work done for the University is small outside of the materials required for the machine-shop and the care of the machine-shop tools. These would have to be done outside. The instructors might be given other congenial work in the University where they could earn as much as they do at present.

Oil is used very largely in the mechanical part of industry and engineering and I propose to make use of the space, should it become vacant, for a laboratory devoted to the teaching of Oil, its properties and applications.

This space could be fitted up as a 'show place' at a comparatively small cost and not only that but we have a laboratory where real scientific work in the study of oil could be performed. I know of no other University having exactly what I have in mind and I feel that it would fill a real need in Engineering and Industry.

I cannot at present lay a complete scheme before you nor would it be possible for me to prepare a course which could be put in operation the coming session. But if the idea commends itself to you, the room and floor could be prepared and the scheme gradually evolved.

Yours very truly.

Chas. M. McKergow