

The
Graduates' Society of McGill University

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MCGILL UNIVERSITY, MONTREAL
PHONE MARQUETTE 9181

Montreal, April 1st, 1932.

General Sir Arthur W. Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,
Principal and Vice-Chancellor,
McGill University,
Montreal.

Dear Sir Arthur:

Yesterday your letter of the 19th, relative to the architect for the proposed gymnasium, was placed before the Provisional Committee of the Graduates' Society. The Committee, after a lengthy discussion, remained still of the opinion that it would be of the greatest benefit to the gymnasium project if the design of the building were a matter of competition thrown open to McGill Graduate architects. I want to emphasize that this feeling is not caused by the fact that any one architect is closely connected with the University. It is essentially a feeling - and a very strong feeling - that such a procedure would free the Graduates' Society from any criticism of partiality and ensure that we get the best plans for a gymnasium that our architects can give us. We must recognize the fact that at the present time there is very little work in the architects' offices, and, consequently, it is an opportune time for any who may be so inclined to criticize us if a slip is made. I am sure we all feel that it is extremely important in proceeding with the collection of the fund for the project, that our first step should not be subjected to the slightest adverse criticism. This was the feeling which actuated a frank discussion of your letter.

With regard to Professor Nobbs, it was quite understood from your letter that the Governors felt that there was an obligation to him with respect to University buildings. It was developed, however, in our conversation that the proposed building is not strictly speaking one that would be put up by the Governors but would be built by the graduates, and because of that fact the Governors might be relieved of what they consider an obligation on their part. It was also developed in conversation that subsequent