

COPY

of letter from:- Lieutenant-Colonel L.S.Amery, M.P.,  
Colonial Office, Downing Street,  
London, S. W. 1.  
to:- Captain Edwards, H.M.Senior Trade  
Commissioner in Canada & Newfoundland,  
248 St.James Street, Montreal, Que.  
dated:- January 29th, 1921.

---

Dear Captain Edwards:-

I sent a copy of your despatch about the Professorship of Commerce at McGill to Professor Kirkaldy, Head of the Department of Economics and Commerce at Nottingham University, as I thought he might be able to suggest a good man. He has sent me a criticism of the proposal that the new Professor should necessarily be a qualified accountant. I will give you his own words:

"In my opinion, unless the accountant appointed has some other very special qualifications, this would be a mistake. An accountant at the head of the Department of Commerce would be apt to lay too much stress on the purely commercial side which experience shows is unwise. A man with a Commercial degree should have attained as high a standard of university training as any other graduate. Otherwise this new Degree is apt to be considered of lower standard, and the ordinary University man may treat it a little "Cavalierly". There is, moreover, the point that in business itself, a man with a good all-round training has a broader outlook, and is able to tackle big commercial problems better than a man who has specialised, for instance, on Accounting.

"I am enclosing a copy of our own Regulations together with an Address I gave at the local Chamber of Commerce, explaining our aims, as this will, I think, make the points I have raised fairly clear.

"I hope McGill, in developing the Faculty of Commerce, will decide that this Faculty shall be of as high standard as any of the Arts or Science Faculties, both in its objects and its degrees."

The copies of the Regulations and Address he refers to are enclosed.

Before making any suggestions as to possible candidates for the post, Professor Kirkaldy wants some information regarding the pay.

Yours sincerely,

SIGNED - L. S. AMERY.