

Inter-department Correspondence



PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR;  
SIR ARTHUR W. CURRIE, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.

FROM

THE PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR,  
MCGILL UNIVERSITY,  
MONTREAL.

March 31st, 1933.

A. Macnamara, Esq.,  
Assistant Deputy Minister,  
Department of Public Works,  
Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Dear Sir,

With further reference to your letter of March 20th, in which you asked the assistance of McGill University in the matter of the food budget for the unemployed relief cases in Manitoba, I may say that I have now consulted our Department of Social Research, which is under the direction of Mr. L. C. Marsh, B.Sc. (London).

In the first place let me say that in our opinion the authorities you have already consulted are equally as good as any others to which you might appeal. Your memoranda indicates that you have already made yourselves acquainted with the most scientific and satisfactory investigations of standard relief budgets; and it is apparent that a group of competent persons have checked over these budgets and the actual schedules used in Winnipeg. The carefully prepared budgetary recommendations of the Montreal Federated Agencies and the examination undertaken at Winnipeg constitute the two outstanding scientific budgets in Canada, and if your relief schedules are directly influenced by these there is the primary presumption that they are adequate.

The food budget, varying for families of different size, in which Mr. McNam is particularly interested, was very comprehensively examined by the Nutrition Committee of the Health Service of the Federated Agencies here, from the point of view of content in caldiums, phosphates, etc., of calories and vitamins. It is, however, a minimum budget; and it is